

THE  
NOVELS  
OF

Dom *Francisco de Quevedo*  
*Villegas*, Knight of the  
Order of St. *James*.

Faithfully Englished.

Whereunto is added,

The Marriage of *Belphegor*,

An *ITALIAN* Novel.

Translated from *Machiavel*.

L O N D O N, Read.

Printed for *John Starkey*, at the *Miter* in  
*Fleet-street*, near *Temple-bar*, 1671.

1713

Gomez de Zuñedo Villegas / Francisco  
[Supplicatioes Workes]

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## The Preface.

**T**He end of most Prefaces, being to beg  
submissively the favour and attention  
of a Reader, who is most commonly inexo-  
rable, had put me so out of love with them,  
that I was resolv'd to make none for my Spa-  
niard, whose Nation or Wit seldom use to go  
abegging: But the Book-seller not well pleased  
that his Book should want a leaf in the be-  
ginning, which others have, is very earnest  
to have me say something of one, whose Name  
speaks enough for himself: Quevedo, Rea-  
der, is my Author, and his pleasant Visions,  
which have of late so diverted you, were the  
productions of the same brain as these Novels:  
'Tis true, there will be one advantage wanting  
to them, and that is, that they have not met with  
one that could dress them so well in the English  
habit, as the Visions did: But truly,  
in that besides their misfortune, you must  
blame the sullenness of the Spaniard,  
who had so affected an humour this time, as  
not to be perswaded to change his Scene, or lay  
A 2 aside

## The Preface.

*aside his Native customs. It would have been easie to have changed the Prado into Saint James's Park; but then what should we have done with the Guittar, which is so absolutely unseparable from a Spaniards courtship in the Night & the customs of hot Countries being much to give occasion to Night-Adventures. It would have been somewhat uncouth, to have brought him to walk the Streets of London, where he would see no body but a few Wenches, and the Constable with his watch, ready to spoil all at every turning. This I thought fit to say as well for the Author, as for the Translator, but most of all for the Book-seller; For I believe the Reader will find more satisfaction, and a greater Apologie for the faults, if any, in the reading of the Book, than of the Preface. Adieu.*

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for John Starkey Book-seller, at the Miter  
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the King of *Denmark*, performed by the  
Right

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THE  
NOVELS  
OF  
Dom *Francisco de Quevedo*,  
The Night-Adventurer.

**I**T will be needless in the beginning of this Work, to use an Invocation of *Apollo*; for since we do describe the actions of one, who was at feud with those beams of light, which make the happiness of other Mortals, if we did require the assistance of any of the Divinities of the Fabels, it would rather be that of *Diana*, whose pale rays preside over the gloomy  
B dark

dark shades of the Night. But leaving there the Stars, we must make our addresses to something more black than those Clouds, through which their influences are still preceptible, and I think Ink is the best thing we can hit upon; for indeed can there be any thing from which we may expect a more favourable assistance, since its deep black is the very belov'd Liverys of our *Adventurer*? 'Tis true, Paper will have some reason to complain, to see its whiteness soiled, and its evenness disfigured with so many different Characters, but I must desire it to put up this injury among the many others, which it patiently endures every day, from the an infinity of scribbling Authors, whose temerity and ignorance are eternally prompting them to affront it. Hail then thou black Dye, by whose means Mortals renown and fame is both illustrated and blur'd; help us to describe the actions of a tenebrious Knight, the wanderer of Church-yards, the camerade of *Bats* and *Owls*; but let us not be too nice in our stile, for it's Truth from which we intend to borrow our Ornaments.

*Talavera* a considerable City in the  
King-

Kingdom of *Toledo*, and situated upon the banks of the golden *Tagus*, was the place where our Heros first saw light; he was of a noble Family; which had no blemish either in its Honour or Religion: In his first Infancy, his house became a Scene of sorrow, for his Father being engaged in a duel, dyed gallantly, and left his Son an ample inheritance of fame and honour; his Mother surpassing all the VViddows, who now a dayes cannot afford to stay till their mourning be over, till they engage in new amours, prevented even the news of her Widdowhood by a second Marriage.

Our Cavalier was the youngest of three Brothers, and by consequent designed for the Church; his name at first was only *Don Diego*, but in time by his conduct he acquired the Sirname of *Lucifugne*, or enemy of the Light. The Church who takes care of her Children was so fond of him, that she nourished him from his tender years, with the sweet milk of divers rich Benefices, which from time to time were conferr'd on him, whereof some requiring his residing at *Toledo*, made that a necessity in him, which else

would have been a choice. For it is one of the deliciousest places in the VWorld ; but whether it were that he was soon glutted with the abundant pleasures of the place, or that the obligation of their tast-ing them took away the greatest part of their relish ; he stayed not long there, but having attained the 20th. year of his age, he disposed of his Benefices into other peoples hands, still reserving to himself considerable pensions upon them ; with the aid of which, and of his own Patri-mony, he made up a Revenue of 6 or 700 pound a year : Thus provided against Fortune, and full fraught with the expectation of that variety which young peoples vagabond inclinations do most run after, he came to *Madrid*, the chief Ci-ty of *Spain*, and the ordinary residence of the King and Court. There he seat-ed himself in that part of the Town, which was most suitable to his capricious humour, which was that which was least frequent-ed, and in a by-Street where few people did come. The house he bought was pretty large, and so capable of being divided into two parts, with all necessary apartments to each ; the one he reserv'd for

for himself, and the other for his friends ; which last he furnish'd very neatly and modishly ; as for his own, he order'd it according to his extravagant humour. First, he took down all the upper stories, as being useless to one who was resolved to keep as much under ground and in the dark as it was possible. Secondly, he caused all the VVindows to be stopt up, not leaving the least cranny for the Sunbeams to peep through ; then he hung all the VValls of it with black ; in a word, 'twas rather a sepulchre for the Dead, than a habitation of the Living. He was most passionate for the art of Musick, taking a singular delight in playing upon his Guittar, and singing to it ; and in this he was so great a Master, that there were but very few that could compare with him ; and indeed his excellence in this Art, and Poetry, made up the greatest part of his ambition ; for he was very well pleased with his own condition, not at all moved at other peoples vanity or preferments ; and so far from courting fortune to an encrease of his, that all his design was only to enjoy himself and his friends in his own singular way ; he seldom or never

stirr'd out in the day time, giving all that to Musick and sleep, as soon as it was dark, and that there was no distinguishing of objects, then did he set out for a walk, which he alwayes perform'd without any other company or protection than that of his Sword, a Rondach or Buckler, and his Guittar, and in this Equipage walking all night, he met with great variety of Adventures, some good, some bad, but still ending gloriously and to his Honour. If it please you, Reader, to surcease your other occupations, which it may be are as idle as the relation of his Adventures will be, I will recite some of them to you, and do promise before hand, that they shall be both diverting and profitable.

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*Adven*

## Adventure the first.

**I**N the middle of the VVinter, and of the moneth of *January*, a season in which the Nights are a great deal longer than the Dayes, and so cold, that the most fiery complexions are ready to freeze if they chance to be abroad : *Don Diego* being weary of sitting at home all alone, resolv'd about eleven of the Clock at Night to take a turn in the Streets of *Madrid* ; he took his Guittar, and in his way playing some Sarabands, and sometimes singing to it, had gone through a great many Lanes and By-places, when at last being come to a very solitary quarter of the Town, he stop'd a little to consider where he was, and looking up heard a Casement open, and a Voice call him with the inviting noise of *ist, ist* : He whose heart was alwayes enclined to new discoveries in Nocturn Adventures, drew near and heard a whispering Voice say these VVords : *If it be you that left this place last Night, with so many marks of an entire satisfaction, why come you again to Night so late ?* *Don Diego* was a little surprized at



so pleasant a question ; but immediately recollecting himself , answered ; *'Tis I, I am the same Man, open the door ;* as soon as he had spoke, the door was opened, and he heard some body bid him tread very softly; he obeys, and following a person that led him by the hand, did begin already to thank his genius, for prompting him to the quick acceptance of the good fortune which he thought attended him within. After he had passed two or three Doors, and as many Entries, he came at last into a Room, at the entrance of which, instead of the amorous Embraces which he expected, he found himself seized by three or four strong Men, borne down to the ground, and disarmed. The place where he was, was a Parlour ; on the table were two lights, and at the further end of the Room he perceived an old Man, of a venerable aspect, sitting in a Chair, who rising up as he drew near, (led by his Jaylor) broke forth into these words, which he proffer'd with a hoarse Voice and a threatening Countenance. *VVhy, said he, (speaking to those that held him) have you brought him alive into my presence, and why did not you Strangle him with-*  
out ?



out? Then looking upon the Prisoner; Barbarous wretch, said he, for I cannot believe thou wert ever issued of that noble Blood which thy Ancestors have owned; VVhat had my weak old age offended thee in, that thou couldst not let my reputation live, but must needs ravish my Honour upon the brink of my Grave? Infamous Cheat, could'st thou choose no other way of being wicked to a dying Man, than in killing that Honour which alone ought to be Immortal? Go, thy sensual pleasure has done me that wrong, which the loss of thy Life cannot repair, and thy Death will rather be an Example to other perfidious Traitors, than a reparation to me; away then, dispatch him, cut his Throat, and pull out that deceiving Heart of his: No, stay, first call that mad and unfortunate Creature, that we may make a Marriage and a Burial of them both at the same time.

Just as the old Man made an end of these words, a young Lady of incomparable Beauty, though much dejected and with tears in her Eyes, came into the Room; the sight of her, and of those unexpressible Charms which were her inseparable

separable Companions, did begin to deface the image of Death, which had already taken possession of *Don Diego's* countenance, and to place some signs of joy and admiration in its room; when the Lady much more surpriz'd to find a Stranger, and an unknown Gentleman, in the hands of her Brothers and Father, could not chuse but blush so extraordinarily, that though it added a new lustre to her Beauty, yet did it not a little puzzle her Relations, who expected a more steady conduct from her. Let us leave him a little in this perplexity, to ease the Reader of his, and tell him whence it proceeded.

A Gentleman whose name was *Don Frederick*, who by all the advantages of Nature, Fortune, and Education, might justly challenge the title of very Accomplish'd, had been long in love with *Fenicia*, the Lady whom we have described; she on her side, though her Beauty did every day adde some new conquest to her Empire, thought none worth owning and requiting but the happy *Don Frederick's* addresses.

Their intrigue was carried so closely, that their Parents of neither side were aware of it,

it, and though *Finicia's* Father and Mother were very diligent in watching their Daughters actions, yet they found it impossible at last to preserve a thing, which the owner it self endeavours every moment to lose; so that after a long perseverance, and the specious shew of an immoderate passion, *Don Frederick* obtained under a verbal promise of Marriage, those favours which should have followed that sacred Union. As soon as *Finicia* had thus put her Lover in possession of that which was most precious to her, and that by the richness of those hidden Treasures, he had been repayed all the expence of tears and sighs which he had been at, he let her see to her infinite grief, that he should henceforth despise her as impoverished and plundered of her virtue. She soon perceived her error by his coldness ere they parted, but his impatience to be gone not giving her time enough to reflect entirely upon her fault, she only sealed his depart with a few Kisses, and desired him to come again to her at the same hour the following Night. In the mean time, considering with confusion the greatness of her fault, and the probability  
of

of *Don Frederick's* inconstancy, she saw no other remedy against that sea of miseries ready to break in upon her, than by opposing to them the authority of her Father and Brothers: It was with much ado that she brought her self to this resolution; and with more terrour that she executed it.

Upon this declaration the Father and Brothers were struck with amazement, and inflamed with revenge; they knew the quality of *Don Frederick*, but had never seen his person; therefore seeing there was no other remedy, they projected to execute upon *Don Frederick* the following Night, all that which poor *Don Diego* in his room had already undergone, having been drawn in by his own curiosity, and *Fenicia's* inviting Voice; their design was to fright him into an accomplishment of his word, or to wash away the stain of their reputation with his blood; but to the end that he might not for ever after make their Sister an object of sorrow, by a cruel return of hard usage, they resolved that she should feign, that she had revealed nothing of their secret Loves, and should in order of rescuing him from their hands,

hands, affirm that they were mistaken in the person, and that it was not he who had abused her credulity.

But *Fenicia* seeing their real mistake, was forced to lay aside her designed artifices, and use sincerity; Brothers, said she, you are in an error, this Gentleman whom ye have thus ill treated, is not the Traytor *Don Frederick*: Oh Heavens! how great is my misfortune, first to forget my self so far, then unluckily to have my shame, and that of my family, published before a Stranger! Her Brothers seemed to be amazed at her words, but still taking them for counterfeit, could not choose but say to one another, look how rarely she dissembles, would not one swear she said true? She perceiving the double error they were in, was forced to have recourse to Oaths and Protestations, to free them from it, in so much that at last she brought them to look with amazement upon one another, not knowing how to unriddle this mysterious intrigue. *Don Diego* on the other side did confirm all *Fenicia's* words, by telling of them his name, his quality, his profession of a Church-man, incapable by consequent of Marriage. The old  
Man

Man at last perceiving the mistake they were in, fell into a great passion against his Daughter, as being the cause of all these unfortunate accidents, by her lewd prostitution: Upon that *Don Diego* began to be a little at ease, hoping that now he should be released; but Fortune, who had resolved to try his Courage, assaulted him afresh, with the prospect of a more desperate danger. For *Fenicia's* Brothers angry at their error, and perplexed to see the repute of their Family fallen into the hands and discretion of a Stranger, whom they had offended and ill treated, went aside a little to think of a remedy in so great a distraction; and after a short deliberation, it was resolved by them to lead him out of their House, and in some by-place while it was yet dark, dispatch him, for fear he should reveal their infamy. In the mean time *Lucifugne* said nothing, hoping still that if he could once get out of that cursed house, either his feet or his hands should protect him. Their design thus resolved upon, was communicated before execution to their old Father; but he being generous, and an enemy of bloody actions, rose up, and coming to *Don Diego* with



with a chearful countenance, Sir, said he, I have a greater confidence in your discretion, than my Children have in the security of your death; I only desire you to have compassion of an honourable Family, whose shame has been lay'd open to you, and pray let our infamy be buried in the secret and silence of your generous Courage. This said, he presented him with his Sword again, restoring also his Guittar, then waiting upon him to the Street-door, offered to have him escorted wheresoever he pleased: *Don Diego* having thanked him, and reiterated his protestations of an eternal silence, as to what he had seen and heard, took his leave; as soon as he was in the Street, and saw himself free from so imminent a danger, he made a thousand vowes and resolutions against all idle curiosities, all which he broke as easily as he made them. Having gone a part of his way home, and finding a great emotion in his spirits from the fright he had been in, he resolved to settle them by the Art of Musick; therefore taking his Guittar, he played and sung to it.

Just as he made an end of his Song, he found himself to be near his Lodging,  
and

and as he was going to open his door, a Person who had dogged him all the way from *Fenicia's* house, steps between him and it, and bids him stand; *Don Diego* a little surprized, guessed immediately that it might be one of her Brothers, who violating his Fathers Commands, was come to seek his revenge, or rather the assurance of his silence in his death; thereupon he goes back a little, and taking his Sword in his hand, though still in his scabbard, comes up to him again to know his design; the Stranger without further delay, draws, and with some injurious words, provoking *Don Diego* to the like, was answered with as sharp effects; for *Diego* after a little while, being very skilfull at his Weapon, made two such home-thrusts upon the Stranger, that he fell, crying out, that he was a dead Man; after which he lay speechless. *Lucifugne* who was as generous as valiant, having raised his Servants and got some Light, came to him, and finding by his adversaries rich apparel, that he was a person of quality, had him taken up, and carried into that apartment which he alwayes reserved for his Friends; there by the care that was taken of him, he came to



to himself, and permitted his Wounds to be dressed; after which he told *Don Diego*, that his Name was *Don Frederick*, the same that had triumphed over the innocent affections of *Fenicia*; that having been hindered by an important affair, from keeping exactly to the hour appointed by her the Night before, he did come to the door just as *Don Diego* was let out; that the singularity of the Adventure having moved his curiosity to know who it was, that did already share with him in those joyes of which he thought himself the only possessor, had prompted him to follow him to his Lodging, and that there his impatient jealousy had forced him to attaque him. *Don Lucifugne* having heard him out, very generously and franckly praised his courage and resolution, but withall desiring to clear all his suspicions of *Fenicia's* chastity, related to him all his Adventure, and at the same time took an occasion to press home to him the greatness of the indignity he had offered an innocent Maid, who was only betrayed by the Love she bare him; entreating him by the principles of Honour, which he professed as a Gentleman, and those of

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Conscience,

Conscience, which he owned as a Christian, and which in his present condition ought to be most prevalent, that he would do the injured Lady right, and free her desolate Relations from the opprobrious reflection of their Daughters infamy. *Don Frederick* was moved by his reasons, and his own Conscience, and sending for a Priest, declared in his presence and before all the Company, that he would accomplish his promise of Marriage to *Fenicia*, as soon as by his recovery he should be in a condition to do it.

His just Vow was receiv'd and approv'd of in Heaven, and from that very moment his wounds began to mend; so that in a few dayes, he was in a condition requisite for the accomplishment of his design; to this end, he entreated *Don Diego*, with whom he had contracted a most intimate friendship, to go and visit *Fenicia* from him, and to give her these new assurances of his fidelity; entreating him withall, not to speak of their Combat, for fear of frightening her: She all this while, poor Lady, was infinitely afflicted, not hearing any news at all of *Don Frederick*,

rick, in so much that the grief of her mind, prevailing upon her body, had brought her to keep her bed in a most languishing condition. In the mean time, her four Brothers raging for the affront put upon their Family, and having in vain sought the Author of it in *Madrid*, thought he had absented himself, and thereupon dividing, everyone had took a different way to find him out, and take a bloody vengeance of this Murderer of their Sisters Honour.

One day as *Fenicia* and her desolate Father were talking of their misfortunes, which they did begin to think beyond a remedy, *Don Diego* came in to visit them; we need not ask if they were surprized at his sight, being not able to guess at the occasion of his coming to them; but *Lucifugne* unwilling to keep them long in expectation of such joyfull tidings, gave them so many assurances of the truth of what he said, that *Fenicia* and her Father were like to have found their joy as fatal to them as their grief, so great was the transport they were in; they received *Diego* like an Angel from Heaven giving him a thousand thanks for

his generous proceeding towards them; *Fenicia* soon recovered her decayed Beauty, and her Lover being perfectly cured, came himself with *Don Diego* to confirm the reality of his intentions; there now remained nothing to compleat their joy, but the presence of the four Brothers; messengers were dispatched to them on all hands, who having luckily found them out, made them haste to see the happiness of their Family: *Don Fredericks* Friends were all invited to the Wedding, which was kept with great Solemnity, and amongst all the Assembly, *Don Diego Lucifugne* was the Person most respected and Honourable, as having been the main instrument of bringing all the intrigue to end in so happy a success.

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*Adven-*

*Adventure the second.*

**T**He memory of these past accidents, might have been the Subject of a very profitable Meditation for *Don Diego*, if he had pleased; but it being a very hard matter to regulate the inordinate motions of a wilde Nature, by any consideration whatsoever, that of so imminent a danger avoided was not powerfull enough to make him refrain from his extravagant Night-Exercises. He had with him a Friend, whose name was *Almanzor*, one who had loved him from his tender years, for the vivacity of his Wit, and the generousness of his Courage, but who was much against the irregular course of his life, and could not but with grief see those seeds of virtue choaked in debauchery, which else would have bore such fair fruit of true Honour: He had often endeavoured by his perswasions to reduce this rebellious Nature, to submit to the Laws of prudence and moderation, and now thinking this a very fair opportunity to strike the nail home to the

C 3

head,

head, he came to him, and very seriously harangu'd him in this manner.

I should never have thought, Sir, that you could have been so unjust to me, and so cruel to your self, as to my great grief I now find you are: Must all the years and pains which I have spent in endeavouring to polish your mind, and elevate your Soul, be not only lost, but rewarded with that shame and reproach which cannot but reflect upon me, from the perversity of your conversation? And must I, that alwayes reckoned to reap in the applause given to your virtues, the recompence of my pains, be now frustrated of all my designs? Sure you cannot be so ill natur'd, or if my interest alone cannot move you, adde your own to the ballance, and see it it will not then weigh down all the fondness of youthly pleasures: are you that have so much wit, not endowed with judgement enough to distinguish between the lightness of your Camerades applause, and the solid value of the graver sort of Men? But setting all that aside, is not the health of your Body, the welfare of your Soul, nay your Life it self endangered every moment in these



these bizarr sallies, which you make continually in the dark? you have but lately escaped a most prodigious danger, and yet cannot this prevail with you to forbear a course of Life, which must certainly be very fatal both to your Life and Honour, one of these Nights; What I say, *Seignor Don Diego*, is out of pure affection to you, and to shew you the little self-love I am guided by; I have hitherto enjoyed the benefit of your Fortune, but if I should continue so to do, I should think my self little less than necessary to your Misfortunes; I will therefore by your leave retire, and rather feed upon the Bread of labour and industry, than that of sorrow, which I must expect if I stay with you. These words of *Almanzor*, were accompanied with a like action, for stepping towards the door, he made as if he would have gone away; but *Don Diego* getting hold of him, entreated him not to forsake him, promising to endeavour an amendment; and to begin, he pull'd off his Sword, and layd it by, and for two whole dayes lived a very regular life, that is, making use of the Night and the Day according to

their Natural institution: But his inclination being all this while violented, upon the third Evening he began to detest *Almanzors* severity, and calling him pedantick Tyrant of his Natural liberty, was resolv'd to shake off the Fetters of his imperious Councils; when he heard the noise of a Coach in the Street, it being a by-place, was seldom troubled with this sort of noise, which made *Don Diego* the more attentive to its motions: It stopp'd a little short of his Window, and presently a Voice, which seem'd to be that of a Woman, Sung divinely well to a Lute, which she touch'd as harmoniously; but the sweetness of her Musick, could not abate the sharpness of her Song, which was so satyrical and biting upon a Lady of pleasure that lived hard by the House, and as it were under the protection of our *Adventurer*, that he had scarce the patience to hear it out; He got on his Doublet and Breeches, and taking his Sword in his hand, run down as fast as he could; the Coach was gone before he came into the Street, and all that he could do, was by following it at a distance, to observe the House it went into.

But



But to avoid confusion, let us give these Ladies their Names, and relate their Adventure. She whom *Don Diego* protested, was called *Carcelia*, and the other who had thus provoked her, went by the name of *Faustina*, both of quality and life so like, that the praise and dispraise of the one, might without injury be adopted to the other: whereupon *Don Diego* having got a copy of those verses, transpos'd their names, and found that the attributes did still sute; wherefore he first resolved to have them sung over again at *Faustinaes* Window; but that being but a simple retaliation, he accompanied it with the interludes of a new invention, which was thus contrived and executed.

*Don Diego* invited to Supper one Night, five or six of the wildest young Men of his acquaintance, and having in the middle of their Mirth, layed open to them his resolution of being revenged upon *Faustina*, asked their opinion: They all answered to the affirmative, and one proposing one thing, another another, at last these Articles were resolved upon.

I. That

1. That there should be a Serenade given, with all sorts of ridiculous Instruments, *viz.* two Sow-gelders Horns, two broken Bells, two Guittars, and two Viols out of Tune, and four Kettles of a different bigness.

2. That there should be composed a Dialogue in Verse, to be recited by two young Men of the company, whereof one should represent *Faustina*, and the other *Popas* her Sister; that the Subject of the Dialogue should be some quarreling expostulations between the two Sisters, which should divulge the infamy of their life and profession.

3. That *Don Diego* should prepare a kind of triumphal Chariot, which should be attended with a good number of lighted Torches, and that the said Chariot should be the Stage of their action; that it should stop just before *Faustinaes* Window, which should be opened by force, if she did not do it voluntarily.

This being resolv'd *nemine contradicente*, the best Poet was charged with the composing of the Dialogue; and when it came to be learned by Heart, there were a great many meeting Dinners, Suppers,

pers, Collations at *Don Diego's*, to encourage the Actors, and perfect them in their parts; and at last, the day before it was acted, *Carcelia* was invited to give her censure, and see what was to be added to, or taken away from this impudent piece of revenge. This last repetition having very much pleased all the company, it was decreed, that it should be acted for good and all the following Night, for fear least it might take vent, and be countermined by the industry of the concerned parties, who could in a need muster good Auxiliaries among the young Gallants of the Town.

Midnight being come, they set forth in great State from *Don Diego's* Lodgings, having in a readiness all the instruments for their most infernal Serenade, yet not touching on them till they should come to *Faustinaes* Street, being resolved to wake no body, but those who should be so unlucky as to have so ill Neighbours as these two Sisters were: The Chariot beginning to move, in solemn dump, in the silence of the Night, and being environ'd round with Torches, its self filled with antick Persons, and followed

followed by others in a Mascarade dress, might have been a spectacle worthy the loss of some sleep. It got at last, with much ado, being drawn by 8. Courriers called Porters, to the entrance of *Fanstinaes* Street, where they had subject to think all their labour lost, for the passage was strongly barricadoed; the business was, that a person of very great Quality being fallen sick in it, had obtain'd leave of the Magistrate, to plant some posts across the Street, to hinder Coaches and Carts from passing and interrupting that little rest which his distemper would allow him to take. *Don Lucifugne* having called a Council, it was resolved not to go back, but to force through this obstacle: thereupon the posts were attack'd, and in a trice thrown down, every one having put to a helping hand; the breach being wide enough, the Machine entered, and being come under *Fanstinaes* Windows, first gave her a Salve of the Serenade, to prepare her attention to the rest; but this so Diabolick a noise, having put all the sick Lords house in an uproar, out came his Master of the Horse, to know what the matter was, and to desire them

to be gone; *Don Diego* met him, and with good words having a little quieted him, promising to withdraw, as soon as he had turned his back, commanded the Dialogue to be begun; but by this time the Lords family had by his Command taken Arms, and the Coachmen, Grooms, Cooks, and Scullions, issued out with their respective Weapons, Pitch-forks, Spits, Tonges, &c. and seeing that Chariot there still, came furiously on to overthrow it and the Actors; but on the other side, *Don Diego* and his Camerades, with Link-boys and Porters interposing, there began a fray, in which many a head was broke, as well as the Peace, on each side; and at last, after a pretty smart conflict, each party well satisfied with their bangings, retired, carrying off their wounded Friends.

*Faustina* and *Popæa*, who were come to their Windows, and had perceived that all this tintamarr was for them, had an exceeding joy to see it disappointed, with an addition of revenge upon the Actors which they could never have hoped for; but their transports were soon at an end, for the next day the Lord their Neighbour

bour being informed, that they were the cause of these Night scandals, caused them to be banished *Madrid*: Some of the Combatants on each side were clapt up, and came off for small fines; *Don Diego* for his part, got clear of the Lords pursuit, by pleading his priviledge of being judged by an Ecclesiastical Court, having also found favour in the Kings; for bating his Nocturn Extravagancies, he was a Man of most excellent Conversation, and very VVitty Company.

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*Adventure*

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## Adventure the third.

*Almanzor* weary of *Don Diego's* extravagancies, and almost out of Charity with himself, for his indulgency in enduring them, seeing him at last delivered from the pursuit of the Law, and all its evil consequences, resolved also to free himself from all the terrors and fears he was continually in, for his Friends safety:

VWhereupon he told *Don Diego*, that the greatest part of the blame of his inordinate life, lighting upon him, as one who had the greatest share in his education, he could do no less than let the World see by his retreat, that he did entirely dissent from all vicious courses, and that not being able to hinder them, he was at least resolved not to countenance them any longer. *Don Diego* having heard him out, answered very fairly, that he was sorry things were come to that pitch, as to necessitate a Rupture between them, but that since his life was of so little conformity to his Friends inclinations, it was best for them both to separate: *Almanzor*

was



was a little surprized to see himself taken at his word, for it was not his intention to withdraw; but did only hope by the severe reiteration of his admonitions, and demonstrations to leave *Don Diego*, so to perplex him, as either to better his own condition in staying, or make him resolve to live more regularly: but however, being thus answered, he thought he could do no less for his honour, than effectuate his parole, which accordingly he did, and retired into a private Lodging in the Town; but at the end of a few dayes, he found that his huffing, cost him pretty dear; for having never before had the experience of the trouble of living at his own charges, he soon began to compare it with the pleasure of living cost-free upon anothers purse, and found a vast difference between those two things; but the value of things is never so well understood, as when the enjoyment of them is past: being weary of the inconveniencies of his new life, he got some persons of Quality to interpose towards *Don Diego*, and to mediate his return to him; they found him well inclined, in regard of their ancient friendship; but to put an invincible obstacle to

all

all future fallings out, *Don Diego* fastned these Articles upon the favour of his readmittance.

1. That all authority of a Governour should be suppressed.

2. That each of them should live according to his own fancy, taking no notice of one anothers comportments.

3. That for the better execution of this agreement, *Almanzor* should live in that apartment which *Don Diego* did use to keep for his Friends.

This was accordingly executed, and *Don Diego* very well pleased to see, that he had at last shaken off the yoke of *Almanzors* pedantick jurisdiction; the natural disposition which *Don Diego* had to play upon divers instruments, and sing to them, being followed with so great an excellency in that Art, that most Masters did admire him, made him very inquisitive after all that excelled that way; so that at last he came to hear of a young Lady, who was said to have attained so great a perfection in the same thing, that she was talked of by all *Madrid* for her skill, both in Composing, Playing, and Singing. This was a great incitement to our

Adventurer to be acquainted with her; but her Beauty, which was more Charming, having at the first sight he had of her, made deeper impressions in his Soul, he never gave over till he got an opportunity of seeing her at a Kinswomans house; there he omitted no sort of Courtship to win her inclinations, but could not bring her to any greater condescendencies, than such civilities and modest favours as might have been granted to indifferent Persons.

The Ladies Name was *Sirena*, and she was Married to a person of quality, but prodigiously jealous of her; a great journey which he had made towards the remotest parts of *Spain*, had given *Don Diego* all these opportunities of making his approaches, and it may be inspired the Lady too with more resistance, than the tyrannical conduct of a jealous Husband would have let her use at another time; for 'tis a most certain rule, that restraint in Ladies encreases the desire of liberty, which once obtain'd or freely given, is more moderately made use of. The Husband being at last come home, and a greater restraint put upon *Sirenas* liberty, she gave *Don Diego* notice of it, desiring  
him

him to forbear to give any publick signs of his passion , for fear her Husband should be alarmed by them; but with-  
all , appointed him a Rendezvous the fol-  
lowing Night , at the same Kinswomans  
house, and that he should meet with a Per-  
son before the door, who should introduce :  
*Don Diego* received this Message with an  
unexpressible joy , hoping that now he  
had at last attain'd to the top of all his  
wishes, since *Sirena* upon her own move-  
ment, did take care of the continuation of  
their Amours : The hour came, he dressed  
himself to his best advantage , and carry-  
ing besides good Arms against all un-  
lucky accidents , he set forth with an ar-  
dent desire not to be the last at the place  
of assignation. Being come to the House,  
he found no body walking there to at-  
tend him, whereupon supposing that his  
Amorous impatience might have made  
him be too diligent, he staid in a shop hard  
by ; after a delay of an hour , and just as  
he begun to lose patience , a Maid of  
*Sirena's* beckon'd to him from the door,  
to go a little farther off from the House ;  
She then following him, told him, that  
her Mistress was gone to take the Air with

her Master, in some Garden about the Town, but that she would hardly stay above two hours, at the end of which he might return, and be sure to meet her: This disappointment, though very sensible, was a little sweetned by the hopes of having a greater liberty of enjoying *Sirena*, when she should be rid of her fond old Husband, to whose fresh arrival, he judged, she had been forc'd to sacrifice some of those moments, which she had designed for him. The better to divert his unquiet impatience, till the happy hour should come, he resolv'd to take a turn in the Prado of *Madrid*, the place where the Coaches take the Air; the evening being somewhat cold, and the Skie a little overcast, had driven the Coaches and all the Company away betimes; so that though it were not much past ten a clock when *Don Diego* came thither, he found as great a solitude in the Prado, as if it had been some remote Desert: he walked twice from one end to the other, entertaining at liberty the variety of his thoughts, till he thought it was almost time to go back to his assignation; but just as he was going out at one end, he heard  
not

not far off the moaning voice of a Woman, and easily distinguish'd these words; Is it possible, dear Husband, that so treacherous a design can come into your mind, as to resolve to kill one, who loves you so dearly? and have you brought me hither only to murder me so barbarously? *Don Diego* mov'd with compassion, went immediately towards the place whence the voice proceeded, desirous to deliver a Person brought to so great a distress: he had not gone twenty steps, but he found a Coach drawn by two Horses, close shut on one side, and open on the other; and a little further, he discern'd a Man on foot, with his Sword drawn in his hand, and a Lady upon her knees before him. The Man hearing some body draw near, came towards *Don Diego*, and bid him stand; stand thy self, replied our Adventurer, and know that I come hither to punish thee, for thy bloody attempt upon that poor Ladies life, whose tears I see cannot soften thy hard and ignoble Breast. At this the other seeing himself offended in his honour, made no other repartie but with his Sword; *Don Diego* parry'd the thrust, and being very

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adroit,



adroit, gave him two wounds, one upon the other, insomuch that he fell, crying, *Jesus*, I am dead: At this deadly cry the Lady fell into a swoon; *Don Diego* hastening to her, found her lying upon the ground without sence or motion; he presently took her in his arms, and having put her into the Coach, and fastned close the boot, he got up into the box, there being no Coach-man, and drave straight to his own Lodging; he soon knock'd up *Almanzor*, and making him come out without any light, for fear of making his Neighbours spectators of what he desired to conceal, they two carryed in the Lady, who was not yet come to her self: Then he told *Almanzor* succinctly, that she was a Lady that he did not know; that he had rescu'd her from a barbarous Husband, who was going to attempt upon her life; that he desired him to have a singular care of her, till he should return, being now forc'd to go out again upon urgent business: This said, he departed, and getting up again upon the Coach-box, he drave till he came before the Windows of a Church-man, who had a great reputation of Piety and Charity; him he called by his Name,



Name, and having obliged him to look out, told him; that the Coach he then was upon, was a stray Coach which he had met with in the Street, without any body to own or drive it; and that he thought it could not be disposed into better hands than his, whose Charity he knew would be solicitous to discover the right owner, and restore it to him: Thus said, he leaped off the box, and ran away as fast as he could: he took his way towards *Sirenas* house, much perplexed with himself, and concluding that he had let slip, the time of his assignation; but when he came near, he met the Maid, who told him that her Mistress was not yet come home; and that she believed that she and her Husband were gone to see her Mother, who was a very rich Widdow, whom they both courted, as expecting to be well remembred in her Will; that if it were so, it would be in vain to expect her home that Night: This long discourse cast some suspicious thoughts into *Don Diego's* breast, that the Maid was not so true to him as he could wish, taking all this story for an invented lye; whereupon desirous to be better informed, he re-

solv'd not to stir very far from *Sirenaes* house, till towards Morning; he walked away a little, and having been absent about a quarter of an hour, came back, and was not a little astonished to see lights at almost all the windows, and to find *Sirenaes* house full of Serjeants, and other Officers of Justice, with a great multitude of People; he draws near, and having enquired of some body what the matter was, was told, that *Don Leander*, *Sirenaes* Husband, was brought home wounded, and that it was yet unknown how and by whom so unlucky an accident had befallen him; *Don Diego* upon this withdrew, judging well that if he should be taken notice of, as one that had courted *Leanders* VVife, and be found besides with Fire-arms about him, he might be laid hold of upon suspicion, which would bring him into a great deal of trouble, though according to his own opinion, he thought himself far from having a hand in the matter.

But now let us return to *Sirena*, whom we had left in *Almanzors* hands; he having lighted a Candle, and poured some drops of a Cordial down the Ladies throat, had with much ado brought her

to her self again: as soon as she opened her eyes, she was strangely surprized to finde her self in an unknown place, in the power of a Stranger; but still supposing that he was the Man who had preserved her from being killed: Sir, said she, having already the obligation of my life to your valour, I cannot expect lesse than the preservation of my honour from your generosity, and therefore without informing your self farther who I am, I desire you to cause me to be led to *St. Feroms* Church door, and there to be left to my own liberty; alas, the Gentleman you killed was my Husband, and though he was even then preparing to make me breath my last, yet can I not but be concerned at his misfortune, and be-moan my destiny, which could find no other way to deliver my innocency from his bloody attempt.

The astonishment of *Almanzor*, was not inferiour to the surprize of the fair Lady; but judging immediately that *Don Diego* was he who had killed her Husband, he thought fit by all means to conceal from her the Author of her misfortunes; and thereupon answering the Lady with great civility, told her, that her request should be

be granted, provided she would condescend to one of his, which was, to give him leave to blind her eyes with a handkerchief, and promise not to go about to unblind her self, till he should leave her to her self before *St. Feroms* Church.

The Lady seeing her self at his mercy, was forced to rely upon his discretion, and give her self up to his conduct; immediately *Almanzor* made a *Cupid* of this *Venus*, and taking her by the hand, led her out of the House; at every step he made, he would look behind him, imagining still that the Officers of Justice were ready to seize upon him: In these apprehensions he came before *St. Feroms* Convent, there taking leave of her, he ran away as fast as his legs would carry him, thinking himself very happy when once he had recovered *Don Diego's* house. The Lady perceiving her self at liberty, unblinded her eyes, and finding her self before *St. Feroms* Convent, took her refuge in her Mother's house, which was hard by.

*Don Diego* in the mean time came home, almost as soon as *Almanzor*, and finding him quite out of breath, and scarce able to speak, by reason of his hasty course, he

he could not choose but ask him the cause of the great alteration he saw in him; the cause, answered *Almanzor* grumbling, is your inconsiderate and rash conduct, which brings all those which concern themselves for your Life and Honour, into eternal perplexities: Thereupon he told him all that had passed between himself and the Lady, and how he had conveyed her away with her eyes blinded, for fear she should know the place she had been in, and by consequent her Husbands murderer, whom she might, it may be, in a fit of vain-glory, accuse before the Judges, to purchase the reputation of an Heroick courage, in loving her Husband so far, as to prosecute him for killing him, even one that had saved her own life.

*Don Diego* could not choose but admire his Friends prudence, in the carriage of this so ticklish a business, and gave him a thousand thanks, and as many embraces for his friendly proceeding; after this he related to him his love for *Sirena*, and how he had been disappointed of his assignation. *Almanzor* gave him prudent advice to desist from his passion, lest it might bring him into some inconvenience

venience worse than any he had hitherto undergone ; after this, it being almost day, they both retired and went to sleep.

They had not rested above two hours, when they were both awakned by a very loud knocking at the Street door ; at first, the desire they had to enjoy some repose, made them neglect the noise, but it redoubling, caused *Don Diego* at last to rise, thinking it might be some Officers who had made a discovery of the last Nights Adventures ; but coming to the door, he found it was no body but a Boy, who presented him with a Letter from *Sirena* ; the sound of that pleasing Name, infused tranquility into his troubled Spirits : he made the Messenger come in, and opening his Letter, found it contained these words.

The



## The Letter of Sirena, to Don Diego.

**D**ON Leander my Husband, continually rack'd by his own jealous disposition, but afresh tormented by the perfidious tales of my disloyal waiting-Woman, did last Night plot a most horrid design against my life; he desired me to go out with him to take the Air, to which I having condescended, he told me there was a Coach stay'd for us at the corner of the Street; he having so order'd it, that he might avoid taking with him some Ladies of the Neighbour-hood, who would have expected that civility from him, if they had seen the Coach before our door; we fetch'd so great a compass in the Town, that it was very late when we came to the Prado, where we found no Body, the Company being all retired; he desired me to take one turn with him, and as soon as we were lighted, he told me he would give me the diversion of hearing one of his Friends Pages sing, and thereupon commanded the Coachman to go to such a place and fetch him. As soon as we were alone, Don Leander with a threatening voice, began to reproach me with all those



those imaginary injuries which he fancied I had done him, and without giving me any leisure or time to justify my self, pronounced the cruel sentence of my Death, of which he made himself both Judge and Executor: I seeing his bloody resolution, endeavoured by my tears and supplications to mollifie his hard Heart; but all in vain, if Heaven, which protects innocency, had not raised me up a defensor; one who appeared before us of a sudden, and who with great valour in an instant overcame my perfidious Husband, and left him dead upon the place; his fall and deadly outcry, joyned with the fright I was in before, so prevailed upon my Spirits, that they left me, and I fell into a swoon; as soon as I came to my self again, I found my self in an unknown house, and in the hands of a stranger, one of a different profession from that of armes: I intreated him to convey me to the door of St. Jeroms Church, which he did, having first blinded me, without giving me any reason for his procedure; as soon as I was at the place I had desired, he left me, and vanished away so suddenly, that I could not discern which way he took. I first retired to my mothers, and from thence to a Religious house, which this bearer will Name to you. I expect  
your

your Councel and assistance, as being one who is much a Gentleman, and a Friend to the distressed  
Sirena.

At every period of this Letter, *Don Diego*, and *Almanzor* who had likewise rise and was come to him, could not choose but look upon one another, and stand astonished like two statues, to see the singularity of the Adventure. *Don Diego* on his side was inconsolable, when he reflected, that he had had in his power the object of all his wishes, without being able to make use of so lucky an occasion; and did begin to detest *Almanzors* timorous conduct, which had deprived him of the joyes of his life. But those Chymical reflections, were interrupted by the wiser consideration of *Almanzor*, who made it appear, that *Sirenas* staying with them, must needs have ended in some tragical event for them all; that therefore the frequentation of such company was dangerous, and absolutely to be laid aside; that however, he did not disapprove of a visit to the distressed Lady, now she was in the Monastery; but lest all this should be a trap laid by the waiting-VVoman, to discover

cover the author of *Leanders* murder; he offered to go first and discover what reality there was in the business.

*Don Diego* was ruled by him for this Once, and *Almanzor* finding *Sirenas* relation true, and her Person in the Nunnery, came and fetched *Don Diego* to her: there they had a great conference, and discovered to one another all the circumstances of the action, by which *Sirena* found her self obliged to *Don Diego* for her life; she thanked him, and promised not to bring him into any trouble upon her Husbands account.

*Leander* in the meantime, was in the hands of the Officers of Justice, and of the Chirurgions, in unexpressible torments of minde and body; he had voluntarily confessed the intended murder of his Wife, and was therefore a Prisoner till it should be known what was become of her: every body that heard of the story, was passionate to know the name of the Gentleman, that had so courageously rescued and preserv'd *Sirena*; but *Don Lucifugne* rather chose to lose the fruit of his valour, for fear lest the sweetness of the glory of it, should be spoil'd by the bitterness of the formalities

lities of the Law ; a little after the news of *Leanders* death was brought to him, he having rather died of the torment of his mind , and those wounds which his rash conduct had inflicted upon his own reputation , than of those which *Don Diego* had given his Body. *Sirena* afflicted for his loss , forsook the VWorld, and turned Nun , resolving to do penance for all the errours of her life. *Don Diego* struck with an extream displeasure at the news of it, fell sick , and had almost followed *Leander* to the other VWorld.

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*Adventure the fourth.*

**L**ong was *Don Diego's* sickness , but the tediousness of it was much eased, by the continual assistance of *Almanzor* , for he did not only endeavour himself to divert his Friend with pleasing discourses, but did also procure him many visits from divers others, who were better acquainted with the news of the Town and Court: by these helps he got upon his Legs again,  
E and

and by his carriage at first, let every body presume that he was as well cured of the all customs of his mind, as of the bad habit of his Body; for during some dayes, he payed and received visits in the day time: but the Carnaval, which is a season of Debauch, being come, he presently fell into his old extravagancies, declaring a new VVar against day-light, and making a solemn league with the hours of the Night. Upon the evening of *Shrove-tuesday*, he was invited by some of his Friends to a great Supper, to take their leave of Flesh; the Supper done, finding that the Company instead of diverting themselves with some ingenious frolick, were fallen to drinking, and to slandering their Neighbours, he stole secretly away, with a design to go to another assembly, where he knew there would be more innocent mirth: he had scarce gone half the way he intended, when he found himself before the great Gate of a House, which was wide open; his curiosity would not let him go by without going in. He takes his Sword in his hand, and entring by the Gate, went through a long dark Ally, which brought him into a great wide open place, where he  
could

could see nothing neither; this stop'd him a while, and made him reflect, that it might be great temerity to go on; yet thinking it Cowardice to go back, he grop'd along the Walls, till he found a door half open, which as he endeavour'd to thrust wider open, he fell into a trap, which made him tumble headlong into a place fourteen or fifteen foot under ground, receiving as good luck would have it, no other mischief in his fall, than the loss of his Sword, which he had been forc'd to let go to endeavour to catch hold of something to save himself: At the same time he heard a Voice, which seem'd to come from a remote place, which asked, *Who goes there?* *Don Diego* a little stun'd with his fall, was not so ready to answer, but that the Voice redoubled again in a threatening tone, *Who goes there?* our Adventurer being afraid lest some body should attack him, to his great disadvantage, before he had found his Sword, which he was groping for, was forc'd to say, 'tis a Man all alone: If it be a Man, answered the Voice, let him come in hither. At these words, *Don Lucifugne* began to resent his bold attempt; but there being no going back, he



drew near to a door, through which there came a little glimmering of light ; as soon as he passed it, he came into a great Hall, at the four corners of which were hung four lamps, which yielded so weak and pale a light, that they did but just augment the native horror of the place ; he goes on, and at one end perceives the figures of two Men, all in deep mourning, each of them sitting in a great elbow Chair, the one leaning upon his hand, as if he had been asleep, and the other waking; they both seem'd to attend a dead Body, which lay stretched at their feet, and wraped up in a winding-sheet.

At this most horrid sight, *Don Diego* was a little mov'd with fear, when on a sudden, the sleeping Man starting up, began joyntly with the other to put these questions to our Adventurer. Art not thou the Man whom the VWorld calls *Seignor Don Diego*? Yes, replied he, trembling, but how came you by my Name? Trouble not thy self about that, replied the Voices conjoyntly, but only answer to our interrogations, for upon thy answer depend many things which we have to do this Night. At these words  
he



he would fain have been somewhere else, but there being no remedy, he replied boldly, I am *Don Diego*; and what are you, Devils? I believe he knows us, says one to the other; he will the better obey our Commands, replied the other: first, continued they, thou must stay here and keep this body, while we go to execute the Commands of a Superiour Power; stir not from hence, as thou tenderest thy safety: Immediately, without staying for his answer, they rose up, and going out at the door, shut it after them upon our Adventurer. *Don Diego* seeing himself left alone with a dead Man, began to recommend himself to the protection of God Almighty, and all his Saints, covering himself with signs of the Cross from top to toe.

The two Mourners had not been gone above a quarter of an hour, when he began to hear horrid groanes, and the noise of iron Chains, with such rumbling as if the House had been falling down; this having produced in him a strange terrour, he went towards the door, with a design to get out, if possible; but as he was almost at it, he heard a fearfull Voice behind him,

which in a sad tone cried to him, stay *Don Diego*, do not think to flie from me; thou hast not yet leave to depart, come back, or I'll follow thee. At these words, looking back, he perceiv'd the dead Man a rising up, and found that the Voice came from him; who continued thus, Know that I am he whom thou didst deprive of this life a few daies ago, without having received any injury from me: Barbarous Man, canst thou hope to avoid the vengeance of Heaven? 'tis by its order that thou art brought hither to hear my just complaints, draw near therefore, that I may reproach thee with all thy crimes.

This discourse put *Don Diego* into a mortal Trance; he certainly believed, that it was the Ghost of dead *Leander*, come from another World to torment him; nevertheless he drew nearer, not daring to do otherwise, and the dead Man pursued thus. I must confess, that thou didst kill me in the Field, and fighting bravely with me; but because I had not learned in my Youth to fence, thou hadst an easie victory over me; but now thou shalt do me reason, come let us wrastle, body to body,

dy, upon condition, that if thou dost give me a fair fall, my death shall be forgiven thee, and neither I nor any of my Camerades shall ever disquiet thee more. But if I overcome thee, thou shalt be bound to come every Year, upon the day of my death, and passe the Night upon my Grave in the Church-yard where I am buried. *Don Diego* seeing that the match was like to be very unequal, desired in submissive Language to be excused, as not being able to Cope with a Spirit; but the Ghost not consenting, and being ready to fall upon him whether he would or no, *Don Diego* put himself into as strong a posture as his fear would let him; immediately the dead Man rose up, and shew'd himself to be much above the stature of an ordinary Man; at the same instant, the four Lamps that lighted the room fell down with a horrid noise, and the Ghost lancing himself upon frighted *Don Diego*, struck him down, and left him in a swoon, out of which he recovered not till about two hours after: As soon as his Spirits were come again, he opened his eyes, and not knowing in what World he was, looked about him, and found that it

was day: He considers the place where he was, sees nothing but four bare dead Walls; he rises, and endeavours to find some footsteps of those horrid apparitions, but could not so much as find the Lamps he had seen fall to the ground.

The day breaking in upon him, gave him courage enough to visit the rest of this dismal house, which he did every where, but found nothing but his Sword; he took it and went away, being ashamed to be seen in such a place, though he would fain have informed himself of the Neighbours, whose house it was, and how it came to stand thus uninhabited.

Being come to his own door, he went in, and immediately put himself to bed, to refresh his wearied Limbs, and comfort his affrighted Spirits. The little sleep he took, was disturbed with frightfull dreams, and at last quite interrupted by a very great knocking at his door; *Almanzor*, who came to him upon the noise, talked with him a great while, and heard from him the narration of his whole Adventure, before he would stir to let in those, who by their reiterated knocks did seem to be in great impatience, at last to be delivered of their  
oppor-

opportunity, he went to the gate; he that had stayed all this while, was one *Don Antonio*, an intimate Friend of *Diego's*, and a very merry Companion: Having saluted our Adventurer, he asked him, how he had passed his Carnival? having had some slight answer, For my part, said he, stroking his Munchadoes, I tailed last night of trepanning a fellow, for whom I had prepared a most ingenious trap: 'Tis one that you know, 'tis the *Cordonan* Gentleman that we call *Don Diego*, but I shall have him in one time or 'another: Why, what is the matter between you? replied *Lucifugne*: the matter is, answered *Don Antonio*, that he has vanity enough to be my rival, and to court a rich Lawyers Daughter, whom a Friend of mine long designed for his Wife.

Now you must know, that this Ladies Windows look directly upon a certain Church-yard, which gave a pretty hint to my Friend to be revenged of his *Cordonan*, and put an obstacle to all those walks which he takes on Nights, about her house; having heard that *Don Diego* was no very valiant Man, he told him one day in my presence, that of late there had

had been buried in that Church-yard, a Man of a notorious ill life, who did alwayes walk there about three of the Clock in the Morning, making fearfull groans, and a dreadfull noise of Chains, insomuch that many of the Inhabitants were ready to forsake their Houses; that therefore he did advise him as his Friend, though his Rival, to retire betimes, for fear of some ill encounter with the dead Mans Ghost. I joyned my perswasions with his, and endeavoured to increase his terrour, by exaggerating the horror of the apparition: But here our Gentleman was proof against our Plot, for though he made as if he had believed all we said, yet he continued every Night to walk in the same place, and give his Mistress Serenados, without fear of being interrupted by the dead Mans groans.

Our design being thus averted, I be-thought my self of another, in which I used a much more terrible *apparatus*: I have of late, you must know, a house thrown up on my hands; it stands in a by-street, and a solitary part of the Town; and though divers have offered to take it of me, yet I have still deferred letting it, in hopes to  
make



make it the Theatre of a piece of revenge, which I had meditated for my Friend upon *Don Diego the Cordovan*, and no later than last Night it should have been executed, had not a most unlucky accident prevented it.

I had obliged three Scholars, newly come from the University, and full of wag-gish tricks, to undertake the business; upon a false pretext, telling them that I had a mind to try the Courage of one of my Friends, who seemed to defie all apparitions of Spirits, and Nocturnal Visions: Thus instructed, I led them to my house about mid-night, there in a Hall designed for the piece, I apparelled two of them like Mourners; the third was a young Stripling almost the head and shoulders higher than the ordinary seize of Men, very strong and active; him I dressed in a Winding-sheet, and made him lie down like a dead Man, at the feet of the others, who were sitting in two Chairs; the Hall was hung with four Lamps, one at each corner, which yielded a certain gloomy light, more horrid than darkness it self: Things being thus disposed, I told them that I would presently send them the  
Man



Man I intended to fright, and that as soon as he should come in, they should ask him, whether or no his Name were not *Don Diego*? that then they should leave him alone with the dead Man, who was to represent some body that he had killed, (for I had often heard him brag of the Duels he had fought) and to desire satisfaction for his death, by wrastring against him: Besides all this, I left them all freedom of invention, and to adde any thing that the occasion should suggest, to terrifie our Gentleman the more; this done, I went out, intending to meet *Don Diego*, for I knew where he was, and to lay a wager against him, that he durst not go into my house; but unluckily I was disappointed of my end, for not far from my House, I heard the clashing of Swords, and coming up, I perceived two of my Friends desperately engaged with half a dozen *Algonatils*, who would have taken them; I presently drew in their behalf, and with much ado got them off, but we were so warmly pursu'd, that it was all we could do by taking by-lanes and turnings to escape: Before our fray was well ended, and we in a place of surety, it was day, and so  
by

by consequent too late to seek out *Don Diego*; so that I believe my three Scholars have sufficiently cursed me, for making them sit all Night in that mimical dresse and posture.

While *Antonio* related this story, *Don Diego* did by little and little come to know the cause of the misfortune happened to him by his own curiosity, and the equivocal names of *Don Diego*; having a little admired the singularity of the encounter, he could not chuse but tell *Don Antonio*, smiling, that he had hindred the Scholars from cursing him, and that he could assure him *Don Diego* had been there by his means, and that they had performed their parts rarely, and almost frightened him out of his Wits: *Antonio* transported with joy, asked him, how he came to know any thing of the Plot? whereupon *Don Diego* related to him all his Adventure, word for word; *Don Antonio*, after he had given great signs of his astonishment, could not chuse but laugh, though he were sorry that the effect of a Pageantry design'd for another, had fallen upon his own intimate Friend: But *Lucifugne* easily forgave him, as being himself  
very

very glad to see that apparition to be but a fiction, which he had taken for a reality.

After some further mirth, *Antonio* invited his Friend to Supper, resolving likewise to send for the three Scholars; but when he came home, he was met by two of them, who came to give him an account of their success; and to tell him withall, that the third verily believing that the Man he had frighted was dead with fear, had taken Sanctuary in an Ambassadors house, to protect himself against all pursuits of the Law: Immediately they sent him word, that he might freely come out, and that if he had a mind to be very merry, he should come and Sup with them, where he should hear a pleasant story: he came accordingly, and they were all as jovial, as they had been sad the Night before. The Supper ended, *Don Diego* went home betimes, to the great content of *Almanzor*, who did begin to hope for a through reformation, seeing such good beginnings.

## Adventure the fifth.

**T**He Feasting and publick Solemnities of the Carnaval being over, *Lent* made its solemn entry, with an ugly aspect to those, who from the excesses of the week before, found themselves reduced to pickl'd Herrings and Ling. *Don Diego*, contrary to *Almanzor's* expectations, was not much troubled at its coming, and whether it were that he was pleased with the variety of the Season, or that he did really intend a reform, he lived very civilly and modestly the first weeks of *Lent*; but perseverance, the greatest of Virtues, and that which Crowns them all, was not at this time given to our Adventurer: For no sooner did *Easter* draw near and the Spring begin to warm the Earth, but *Diego's* blood receiving a new motion from this accession of heat, made him seek out his old Camerades. He soon found them, and began again by little and little to anticipate upon the Night, till at last he was come to the old passe, and did seldom retire till *Aurora* with her tears had treated

treated him like the Flowers, and all bedewed him.

One day then, or rather one Night, about ten of the Clock, taking his Sword he walked out into the Prado or Hide-park of *Madrid*; every body knows that it is *Venus Market*, and the Fair where the great trade of Love is driven, between the Gallants and Ladies of *Madrid*. *Don Diego* was just come into the Prado, when he espied a Coach, which drave extream softly, and in as great state as if it had been a Queens: in the boot was a young Page, who Sung very ill, to a worse tuned Guittar: The Coach stop'd in a circle of Gentlemen and Ladies, who were sitting round a fountain; and immediately the Page, by his Masters order, began to regale the company with an Aire, but was interrupted with so many railleries, that he was glad to hold his Tongue, and his Master to make room for a Coach which followed: In it was a young Lady of exceeding Beauty, with another old one, and she was singing divinely well to a Guittar, which she touched as sweetly: all the Company drew near at this so pleasant an Harmony, and immediately the Coach was invironed by

by most of the Gallants of the Prado ; amongst them there was one, who confidently leaning upon the boot, took more liberty than any of the rest, neither did either of the Ladies seem to take it ill ; there were by a great many others, who would fain have done as much, but wanting confidence durst not attempt it : While they were all thus attentive to the Ladies Voice, up comes one, almost out of breath, having followed the Coach from his Lodging ; he draws near, and taking notice of the Ladies familiarity with the Gentleman that leaned upon the boot, presently grew jealous of him, and resolv'd to quarrel with him ; as he was thinking of a pretext, up comes *Don Diego* to him in haste, being acquainted with him, and desires him to keep his Guittar for him, while he followed two of his Friends, who by their words and actions did seem to him to be gone to fight : Our Gentleman, whose eyes were fixed upon the Lady in the Coach, took only so much notice of *Don Diego's* words and actions, as to take his Guittar, and so let him go ; he had no sooner *Don Diego's* instrument in his hand, but a string of that on which the Lady played broke ;



immediately he advances very civilly, to present the Lady with his, that the Company might lose nothing of so fine a diversion; but as he drew near to present it, he was push'd back with scorn by him that leaned upon the boot: immediately *Don Diego's* Friend, resolving to chastise his insolencies, replies with all his might with the Guittar upon the favourites head, which was bare, and before he could put himself in defence, had redoubled the blow, & broke the Guittar into a thousand pieces, as well as the Head in some places which run down with blood; immediately they both drew, and all the Company too: The Serjeants, who do ordinarily walk upon the Prado, expecting some such fray, came in: at their appearance *Don Diego's* Friend slip'd away in the Croud; the Coach for fear of being seized upon, drave away as fast as four Mules could draw it, and there remained no body there but the wounded Gentleman, and the bruis'd Guittar.

In this very instant back comes *Don Diego*, who had parted his Friends, and was much astonished to find such a solitude, where a little before he had left so great a croud; he walks up and down, and endeavours



vours to find out his Friend the depositary of his Guittar : but seeing it was in vain, retires very disconsolate for the losse of his dear instrument, which had been his faithfull Companion in most of his Adventures; being come home, he sends to the Gentlemans Lodging; but answer was made, that he was gone into the Country, and that they did not know when he would come back.

The losse of the Guittar was the cause of *Don Diego's* keeping his Chamber for some dayes, where we will leave him, and see what became of the wounded favourite. Whether it were the disgrace of having been beaten before his Mistress, or really the hurts he had received that made him so ill, is unknown to this day: but so much we have, that he grew worse and worse every day, and fell at last into a very violent fever, insomuch that the Physicians and Chirurgions did scarce hope for life: in the mean time the criminal Judge did use all possible means to discover the person that had brought him into this case; and to that end had consign'd the broken Guittar into one of his Catchpoles hands, who never left poring upon it till he had by putting

all the pieces together, discovered at last the name of the workman that made it; presently thinking he had made a happy discovery, he goes to him, and asks him if he knew that Guittar; he answered, yes, and that he had made it for a Gentleman called *Don Diego*; the Serjeant not content with his naked testimony, asks his journeymen; who confirming their Masters words, he summons them all immediately to come and depose the same upon Oath before the Judge: They not daring to refuse, go and justify what they had said to be true; the Judge forbids them as they would answer it at their perill, to give any notice of their deposition to *Don Diego*: But no sooner were they out of his sight, but reflecting upon the injury they had unwarily done to a Gentleman their customer, they went unanimously and gave him information of the danger he was in. *Don Diego*, who was very innocent, fell into a great rage against the malicious Catchpole; he by the advice of *Almanzor*, immediately secured all his goods in an Ambassadors House hard by his, having got acquainted before with his Secretary; then he retired thither himself, and kept close for a matter  
of

of three weeks or thereabouts; during that time, the great care that was taken of the sick man, who was a person of condition, had good success, and he recovered so well as to be out of danger; upon that, some propositions of agreement, and tender of satisfaction were made, which by the mediation of the Lady, for whom the quarrel had hapned, were after some dispute accepted, and the Gentleman *Don Diego's* Friend came back and shewed himself again; he presented *Don Diego* with a very fine new Guittar, and all was well.

But *Don Diego*, who was of a very vindicative nature, being not at all satisfied that the malicious Catchpole, who had laid him up so long, should go away Scot-free, at last never left contriving till he had bethought himself of some piece of revenge, where neither he nor his Friends might run any hazard; and at last after much study and labour he was delivered of the following design.

During his stay at the Ambassadors House, he had got acquaintance with some witty young Men, who had taken shelter there as well as himself: One day then he invited them to Supper, where he

spared no cost to put them in good humour. The first health they drank was the Ambassadors, who afforded them the protection of his House ; the second was the magnificent *Don Diego's*, at whose cost and charges they were then so merry ; the third was the Lawyers and Attornies, who did protect them with their eloquence and shifts, against the severity of the Law ; the fourth was to the Brokers, who did buy of them, and so industriously alter the Cloaks they did use to him in the Night ; the fifth was to the Vintners, who did often give them credit, and by that means afforded them the occasion of bubling a young Whelp ; thus they went on till they were all pretty well gone.

Then *Don Diego* having proposed to them his intention, they all consented to it, and four of the most determined amongst them undertook it : They cloathed themselves in black Serge from top to toe, putting upon their heads great horns, and behind them great tails of two yards long, which *Don Diego* had provided ; in this equipage, as like Devils as they could make themselves, they marched out, and getting over the wall of the yard

yard where the Sergeants house stood, they broke into it, and with a horrid noise running up Stairs, dragged him out of his bed from his Wife; there they whipped him so long, till they had used all the bundles of rods they had brought with them, and drawn so much blood of him, as cast the poor man into a Swoun; but they resolved to leave him in his senses, that he might remember his punishment, and so continued on clawing of him, till out of the extremity of pain they brought him to himself again; the first word he said when he opened his eyes, was, *Jesus*; at the sound of that Name, they all forsook him, and vanishing immediately, confirmed him and his Wife in the opinion, that they were true Devils: The Sergeant lay upon the floor of his House a long time, while his dismayed Wife was hid in the sheets, and all in a cold sweat, so that it was day before he got to bed again, and then he was so sore with the stripes he had received, that he was hardly well in a fortnight.

The noise of this so strange an accident, was in the mean time spread all the Town over, and every body had a curiosi-

ty to see the Catchpole, that had been chastised by the Devils themselves, so that he durst not stir out when he was well, for fear of being pointed at in the Streets. *Don Diego* hearing all this, thought himself well revenged, and immediately retired to his own House, where for two dayes he lived modestly, and then began his Night-walks again.

Adven-



*Adventure the sixth.*

**T**He harbingers of sleep, weariness and yawning, did begin to summon the Sun to retire to his bed in the Sea, which is justly reserved for him alone, (for being of so fiery and dry a complexion, few besides himself can like a Couch so wet and so cold) when our generous *Don Diego*, a very ill Disciple of his own experiences, resolved to seek out new dangers, or rather to meet them half way, for they seldom avoided him: The Night was quite blind, and had not so much as the glimmering of a few Stars to light its Friends, and therefore the more welcome to *Don Diego*; but before we enter any further into the Adventure, we must make a little digression.

There was at *Sevill* a Man of a lofty mean, who wore good Cloaths and passed for a Gentleman, but was indeed a Shark; his Name was *Don Diego*, and most of his tricks he played in the Night; he was surnamed the *Nocturne*, so that there appeared in the World two *Don Diegos* of the same



same Name, ours being called sometimes *Lucifugne*, and sometimes *Nocturne* : Our *Sevilian* seeing that his life was discovered at *Sevill*, and that the many robberies he had committed, would in the end lodge him in a place of perpetual darkness, resolv'd rather to be eclipsed for a while, and to steal away ; he gave out cunningly, that he was going for *Madrid*, but the day that he absented himself from *Sevill*, he took *Grenada* road, hoping to be very welcome in that place, which affords ordinarily a favourable access to Strangers.

The report of his journey to *Madrid* being published, and come to the ears of a Merchant, whom he had cheated of some Rings, the Merchant without more ado gets up, and to the no small loss of his skin, which the Mules hard trot and saddle did sufficiently wear away, came to *Madrid* ; there having sent a note to all the Goldsmiths, to apprehend the Man if he should come to sell the said Jewels, he endeavoured besides to strike into most wilde Companies, hoping to discover his Gentleman in some such gang.

The second Night after the coming of the Jeweler, our primitive *Don Diego* set  
out

out again upon the quest of some new *Adventure* : He had got acquaintance with a young Solicitours Wife, a very pretty Woman, who had the reputation of a great deal of Wit, and much of subtilty; the glory of over-reaching all her cunning, and gaining with ease one who was so well fortified against the attaques of all others, had engaged *Don Diego* in this Siege, and in it he had been so fortunate, that with the loss of very little time, but by the help of an industrious old Woman, he had subtilly undermined the place, and brought it to capitulate; the articles were, that it should be delivered up to him that Night between twelve and one of the Clock, but that he should not fail to bring along with him two rings of good value, which the Lady had seen upon his fingers, to be as it were hostages of good behaviour on his part. *Diego* promised he would, and though he had set a greater value upon the Rings, because they had been his Mothers, yet being accustomed to sacrifice all things to his sensuality, he yielded to that article; the next was, that he should lay by all the signs of a Gentleman, *viz.* his Cloaths and his Guittar, and come disguised like a Serving

ving man, to the end that if he were by chance met either coming in or going out, the Lady might say that he was a fellow come from her Mothers in the Country, and to that end, she put into his hands one of her Mothers Letters, which she had new sealed up; lastly, that he should climb over an old Wall, and so by the Garden, of the door of which she gave him a key, come into a little summer-house, where he should find the Lady disposed to receive and content him: *Don Diego* having signed all these articles, set out from his own House about the hour of assignation; as he came into the Street where his Mistres house stood, he heard in passing by a door a very great noise, as of people in a tumult; thereupon he steps in, the door being open, and sees a Man writing upon the bottom of a Barrel, and another who lighted him with a Candle in a Lanthorn, for fear the Wind should blow it out: Round about them stood a great many others, some without Stockings, others without Doublets, and others in their Shirts with their Cloaks over, having almost all Swords under their Arms. Our Adventurer stood a pretty while behind

hind them, to hearken to what they were saying, without being perceived, and found that some body had been rob'd in the Neighbourhood, and knew the Man who was writing for the Clark of criminal Causes, who was taking the deposition of the Witnesses; having thus contented his curiosity, he thought fit to retire; but as ill luck would have it, he was surpris'd with a fit of sneezing, which he could not Master; the noise made the others face about, and ask, Who's there? *Don Diego* not willing to be taken notice of in his disguise, began to hasten away, hoping to avoid their pursuit at the next turning: But his haste increasing the others suspicion, they ran after him with a full cry, *stop thief, stop thief*; Our Friend, who could not endure any offence in his humour, turns back upon those words, and with (*you lye, you dogs*) cuts the foremost over the pate, and laies him at his feet; the others exasperated by the blow, fell upon him, and in spight of his resistance did disarm him, and carry him before the Clark of the criminal Causes.

There was nothing in his person, that might not in some sort serve to convict him,

him, for his mean and his Cloaths were not all suitable ; besides, having searched him, they found in his pocket a little box, wherein were the two Rings , the Letter, and a Key , which was that of his Mistresses Garden door ; the Clark divided the spoil very equally , taking for himself the two Rings , and giving the Catchpole his assistant the Letter and the Key ; that done, he sent *Don Diego* to Prison, notwithstanding all his protestations, that he was a Gentleman, and a Person of Quality ; who would make them repent their insolency ; they dragg'd him along , and the Jaylor for his welcome put him into the Dungeon to two true thieves , that had been taken in the very act of that robbery : They hearing him talk much of his quality and Friends , resolv'd as soon as they should be confronted to him, to say that he was one of their complices , to the end that by his Friends means they might be all absolv'd : Whereupon the next, they charg'd him home with all the robbery, and put him into a most violent rage against their knavery, but all to no other purpose, than to make the noise of him seem more guilty.

In the morning as soon as this capture  
and

and imprisonment of Thieves was abroad, divers of *Don Diego's* Friends came to be bail for his appearance, but he had not so much liberty granted him as to speak with them, so that they were fain to return, and expect the event of the business by the Law.

In the mean time the report growing publick, came to the ear of our *Sevilian* Jeweler; who hearing of Jewels seised in the Pocket of one *Don Diego*, made no doubt but it was the Man he hunted after; and came in great haste first to the Clarks to seise and claim the Rings, then to the Prison, to charge the Prisoner with new crimes; he imployed in the pursuit of his business the Solicitour, husband to the fair Lady who was to have granted *Don Diego* a better Nights lodging, than that which his hard Fortune had provided for him; he coming to inform himself more particularly of the business, found the Letter directed to his Wife, and the Key of one of his Doors; upon that he suspected that there had been a design to rob his house too, and immediately put in a new charge upon the Prisoner, desiring he might be interrogated upon it.

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The process being in this condition, *Don Diego* could do no lesse than give private notice to the Lady, to desire her to cause her husband to desist from his violent pursuit, or else that he should be forced in his own defence to discover all the intrigue; but she being a perfect coquet, was already engaged in other Amours, and little minded *Diego's* advertisement; this being related to *Don Diego* again by his old Ambassadors, he resolv'd to clear himself of the infamy and oppression he lay under; and therefore sent for one of his intimate Friends, who was likewise familiar with the Judge, and laid open to him all the mystery: he told the Judge of it, who told him, that *Don Diego* must prove what he said; thereupon the old Woman was heard, who discovered the assignation: The Letter was produced, and the *Sevilian* Jeweler being brought before *Don Diego*, confessed to his great amazement, that he was not the Man that he looked for; thereupon the Judge set him at liberty; ordered the Rings to be restored to him; to the Solicitor the Keys of his Door, and to his Wife the Letter. After the pronouncing of this just Sentence, the Merchant and the Solicitor stood



stood amaz'd, and looking upon one another; and at last went away, both with three inches of nose, and the Solicitor with a famous pair of horns, which with much care and industry he had planted upon his own head: *Don Diego* retired, smiling to see their dejected countenance, and was very glad that the accident had hindred him from going to the assignation, where infallibly he had parted with his Rings; Thus ending this Adventure, we may conclude with the proverb, *That ill luck is good for something.*

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*Adven-*

*Adventure the seventh.*

THOUGH our incomparable *Don Diego* were come off with flying Colours from this last engagement with his ill fortune, being absolv'd from all the crimes which had been laid to his charge; yet he resolv'd to inflict a voluntary punishment upon himself, and for a while to leave *Madrid*. 'Tis true, that his banishment could not be very rigorous, since one of the main motives of his journey, was to receive two thousand Ducats, which were due to him at *Salamanca*; In this City is the University of *Spain*, and ordinarily a very great concourse of Scholars, to partake in the fertility of all the Sciences, which seem there to have chosen their seat. *Don Diego* had to do with such good pay-masters, that no sooner did they hear of his arrival, but they brought him his money to his Lodging: Neverthelesse he resolv'd not to go back so soon, but spent some time in the conversation of the most learned and ingenious of the Professors and Scholars, to his very great advantage:

At

At last, doubly enriched, he returned to *Madrid*, and locked up his Ducats very carefully, as resolving to inspire them with something of his humour, and to let them see day as seldom as he could; the two first Nights were devoted to the rest of his wearied Person, but the third he resolv'd to walk out, for fear of being guilty of violating his own freedom and natural Priviledges; but he was prevented from executing his design, by divers visits of his Friends, and amongst others there came a certain Person whom the World call'd the *Knight of Wonders*, because that without any visible revenue or income, he appear'd very handsomly at Court, wearing as good Cloathes as any body, and keeping as handsome a Retinue; this did make many suspect, that he had some flight of hand, to convey other peoples money invisibly to his own purse: *Don Diego* gave him an ample recital of his journey, and the happy success of it; shewing him withall his Ducats, to confirm what he said; the Knight congratulated his happy return, and having given him an account of the Town, and all the News, took his leave, though

*Don Diego* would have made him stay Supper.

It was past mid-night before our Adventurer could get clear of two or three visits more, but at last the visitants being all gone, he took his Sword and walked out; his first reflections were upon the imprudent action he had done, in shewing his Ducats to the Knight of Wonders, being much troubled lest he should conspire against the quiet which he had proposed to himself in the enjoyment of them: In this thought he resolves to go back, and to hide them in another place, that at least he might disappoint the aim of such as should endeavour to get them from him. As he was going back, he took his way through a Church-yard, which was hard by his House, and heard a Voice, which was mingled with sighs and groans, and which did seem to come from a House where they had laid up the dead Mens bones; he stops at that, and hears it again; immediately considering that it was an occasion of shewing his Courage, and such a one as would make him pass for a Heroes if he came off well, he resolv'd to go on towards the Voice: Drawing near, he perceived

ceived a very weak light, which did break through a separation of Boards, which divided the House from the rest of the Church-yard; that guided him to the door, which a little about, and just as he was going in, was he trod upon a dead Mans rib, which breaking under him, had like to have given him a fall; at the noise, a mans voice cried, Who goes there? and immediately *Don Diego* saw a Person of a noble mean come towards him, having his Sword drawn in one hand, and a dark Lanthorn in the other; at the sight of the naked Sword, *Don Diego* immediately drew, and was putting himself in a posture of defence, when he heard himself named, and knew the Voice to be that of the Knight of Wonders: *Diego* full of admiration, asks him, What he did there? Alas! my dear friend, answered the Knight, you find me here in the greatest perplexity imaginable; a young Lady of quality, whom I have privately married, without the consent of her Friends, is here just now delivered; for you must know, that having lived in her Fathers House all the time since our marriage, she let me know this morning, that she did begin to feel

some symptoms of her labour, and beg'd of me that I would convey her away from her Friends, fearing a hard usage from her Father, who is a most passionate Man: I not knowing in so short a time whither to carry her; was resolved to have brought her to your house, as knowing your frankness and generosity to distressed Persons; but by the way she was so overcome with her pains, that we were glad to get into this Charner-house; where she is just now delivered: At that they drew near, and *Diego* saw with amazement a young person of admirable beauty, lying in a weak condition upon a heap of dead Mens bones, and a Childe newly born by her, which by its cries seem'd to bemoan its destiny in being born in the very Empire of Death: In this confusion, the Father takes the Childe, and wrapping it in his Cloak went away, recommending the mother to *Don Diego's* care, who remained there all alone with a Lanthorn in his hand, comforting the poor disconsolate Lady. But for an increase of misfortune, the wax-candle which was in the Lanthorn was at an end, so that going out, it left him & the Lady all alone in the dark, the terrour of which was  
much



much augmented by the native horror of the place.

In the mean time, while our Charitable Adventurer was thus employed, one of the subtlest thieves in all *Madrid* had set spies upon his Ducats, and having advice that he had forsook the guard of them that night, made haste to use the happy occasion; he picked all the locks of the House, and took the money, divers jewels, and two very good suits of Cloathes: he makes a bundle of all this, and wing'd with speed and fear, gets away safe into the Street. He had not gone above a Streets length, when he heard the Watch coming that way; whereupon being well acquainted with all by-passages, he slips cunningly into the Church-yard hard by, and coming into the Charner-house where *Don Diego* and his Lady were, throws down by them his bundle: The Lady was frightened, and *Don Diego* immediately with his Sword drawn, goes towards him, being very ignorant of the Present which fortune did make him of his own goods: The thief hearing some body walk upon the dead mens bones, and frightened besides with his own guilty Conscience, runs away as



hard as he can drive ; just coming out of the Church-yard, he meets the Watch, who went about to lay hold on him, as a suspected Person ; but the imagination of being pursued by a Ghost, gave him courage enough to force his way through them with a quarter-staff, which he understood the use of very well.

*Don Diego* hearing no more noise, thought it not discretion to follow any further, and leave the distressed Lady alone ; he therefore went back to her, and found that she had recovered a little strength ; whereupon he proposed to her, to lead her to one of his servants Houses, who was married and lived there hard by ; she consented, & they were very courteously received when the people of the house saw their master *Don Diego* ; as soon as lights were brought, and that *Don Diego* could freely contemplate the face of the Person he had done so good an office to, it was all he could do to refrain from falling at her knees, so admirable was her beauty ; and certainly, had not the concern for his Ducats, and his usual trueness to his Friend ; been his Antidotes, he could never have kept the Poyson of Love from  
killing

killing all his reason. Immediately a Mid-wife was sent for to tend the Lady, who was put into an excellent bed: There let us leave her, and see what became in the mean time of her lover the Knight of Wonders.

He having found a Nurse with much trouble, and being yet desirous to stay a little to see the Childe tended, it being somewhat ill, desired the Nurses Husband to go and excuse his delay to *Don Diego* and his Lady, and intreat him to dispose of her somewhere, where she might receive help and assistance; when this Man came to the Church-yard, *Don Diego* was already gone; the man coming in, finds no body there, whereupon he makes haste to get out of so horrid a place, and as he was near the door, sets his foot upon the bundle which the thief had thrown there; finding it yield under him, he thought it was some dead mans body, and giving a great shriek, was ready to run away, when by the favour of his *Lanthorn* he perceived his errour; he views the bundle, and seeing the outside pretty rich, begins to deliberate, whether or no he should carry it away: He easily concluded to the affirmative,

affirmative, thinking it no small favour of his fortune to meet with such apparel in a place where every body comes naked.

*Don Diego* all this while, having seen the Lady well disposed of, thought that now he might pay a visit to his Ducats, which had run in his mind ever since his going out; he comes to his House, goes streight up to the Chamber where his Cabinet stood, and finds the doors of it open, and his Money gone, as well as his Jewels and Cloathes; immediately not knowing whom to accuse, he suspects the Knight of Wonders to be the author of this feat, and that he had taken the time to do it, while he was busie in conducting the sick Lady to a place of safety and refreshment. This thought having transported him with anger, he immediately went out, resolving to go straight to the Church-yard, whither it was probable that the Knight would come, that he might seem lesse guilty.

As good luck was, *Don Diego* came in to the Church-yard, just as the man whom the Knight of Wonders had sent to him, was getting up his bundle, and going away with

with it ; suddenly *Don Diego* blinded with rage, falls upon him , taking him for the Knight , and not only made him loose his hold, but threatned to have him hang-ed : At that very instant a Catchpole, who had in vain wandered all Night in hopes of a prey, comes in at the noise , and seeing two Men strugling about a bundle, commands them in the Kings Name to keep the Peace , and answer his interrogations ; and in *Spain* every petty officer of Justice being much respected , he was presently obeyed. The day was just then breaking , and *Don Diego's* anger being a little evaporated in the scuffle , gave him leave to consider the man he had at-taqu'd, and to perceive his mistake; on the other side, the man seeing that no body did lay hold on him , and being afraid lest being found seised of an unknown bundle, he might be called in question for stealing of it , slunk away very diligently , leaving *Don Diego* to answer the Catchpole : Just as he was beginning his examination, in comes the true thief, who had stayed till it was day, to come and fetch from the dead the Packet of which he had made them receivers ; he perceives *Don Diego* and  
and

and the Serjeant disputing together, he draws near, and being a very bold fellow, and of a present Wit, comes to them with his hat in his hand, as if he had been some ordinary person drawn thither by his curiosity; the Serjeant after some dispute, having touched *Don Diego* with his wand, and commanded him to follow, bids this thief, the stander by, to take up the bundle, and come along with them to the Judge: As they went, the cunning rogue takes the first turning, and slips away; a little after, *Diego* looking about, misses him, and tells the Catchpole angerly, that he should be responsible to him for that bundle; the Catchpole taking him to have been of the confederacy with the other, and vexed to see such a trick put upon himself, answers very sawcily, in so much that our Adventurer not able to endure it, draws and cuts him over the pate; at the Catchpoles out-cry, the Neighbours came out, and *Don Diego* is seised and carried before a Magistrate, who having learned his quality, and the nature of the business, was content to give him his own house for Prison, and two Serjeants to guard him.

The Knight of Wonders in the interim,  
impatient

impatient to hear from his dear Lady, goes to the Church-yard, and from thence, finding no body there, runs to *Don Diego's* house, at which place he heard of his being robb'd, but could get no account of his distressed Wife; not knowing whither to go next, he resolv'd to see whether his Nurses Husband was come back again or no; but he was in a strange perplexity, when coming to the house he found the Woman in such a fright, that all her milk was gone, and so the poor infant in danger of being famished: the business was, that her Husband had come to her almost out of breath, and told her, that he must run away for fear of being apprehended for a certain bundle of Cloathes, of which he had been found seised, and which were stolen goods: At this new accident the Knight of Wonders was extreamly troubled, and all that he could do in order to the preservation of the Childs life, was presently to hire a Coach, and taking the infant with him, carry it to a little village within a League of *Madrid*, where people used to put their Children out to Nurse. The true thief did no sooner see himself at liberty, but without any more delay,



delay, for fear of some new accident, he resolv'd to leave *Madrid*, which he did accordingly, hoping to enjoy his prey in quiet. The sick Lady was infinitely tormented to see her self forsaken by her lover. *Don Diego* was almost mad to find himself a prisoner, and so hindred from prosecuting the Knight of Wonders; and in a word, there was a general confusion amongst all these Persons; but Providence at last unridled all these mysteries, and gave a quiet calm, instead of these storms.

The Knight of Wonders being come to *Checasé*, for so was the Village called, made such diligence that in lesse than an hour he found a Nurse, and was with the like haste getting up into his Coach to return to *Madrid*, when he heard a very great noise in the Inn where he was, and going in, found a Man who had seised another, and was ready to strangle him; crying, traitor, rogue, I am the Man thou didst rob about a year ago at *Toledo*, and I will now have thy life for my satisfaction; at this mans out-cries the people came in, and the Knight of Wonders drawing near, and putting some questions to the  
other

other about the bundle he saw there with him, began to suspect that he might be *Don Diego's* thief; immediately the Judge of the place was sent for, in whose presence the bundle was open'd, and an Inventory made of all that was found, to which the Knight of Wonders laied claim for his Friend. The thief was clap'd up, and the Knight went back post to *Madrid*, to carry *Don Diego* these glad tidings; who to requite his favour, carried him to see his distressed Wife, who was drowned in tears for his absence; there by the Ladys own confession *Don Diego* learned, that it was by her means, who was the only Daughter of a rich Man, that the Knight of Wonders did subsist so handsomely; whereupon he was very sorry that he had harboured so ill an opinion of his Friend, but yet very glad there was no ground for it. Leaving the two Lovers to their mutual enjoyment, he went to the Judge, who had given him his house for Prison, and having acquainted him with the business, easily obtained a Commissary to go and fetch the thief, and his theft. The one was hanged, and the other restored to *Don Diego*, not without some diminution,

diminution, as having past through the hands of the Officers of Justice: Being once again in possession of his Ducats, he resolved to keep them with more care hereafter, and in the mean time for an acknowledgement of their recovery, he thought himself bound to assist the Knight of Wonders his Friend, in appeasing and softning the angry Parents of his Wife; who when they should come to the knowledge of their Daughters action, whom they now lamented as lost, would certainly disinherit her: he by the assistance of a great many people of quality, his intimate Friends, laboured so effectually in the business, that at last the Father and Mother seeing there was no remedy, and being informed that the Knight of Wonders was of an ancient Family, though poor, consented to the match; the more to solemnize this happy success, there was a great meeting of kindred and Friends, where the VVedding was kept in great state.

*Don Diego* much pleased at his Friends good Fortune, made a new League of Friendship with him, and one would have thought, that having so many times tried the fickleness of fortune, he should at last have

have been content to take her and marry her, while she was in a good fit, rather than be exposed to court once more in his adversity; but success makes men imprudent, and so it did our Adventurer, who expos'd himself to new dangers, as we shall see in the following Adventure.

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*Adventure the eighth.*

**D**On Diego having experienced a sufficient variety of accidents in the Streets of *Madrid*, did begin to be afraid lest at last he should be forced to give over his extravagant Life, for want of novelty in his Adventures; while he was in this concern, he learned that the Chariots which passe that Sea of dirt in Winter, and clouds of dust in Summer, which is between *Madrid* and *Toledo*, did go in the night time for coolness sake: Upon that consideration, he thought that a little Country air would do him no hurt, particularly since he could take it without  
H seeing

seeing the Sun , with whose beams he was at feud ; he takes up a place , and was not a little pleased in his imagination, to think what a pleasure it would be to him to hear discourse of the meaner sort of people , who ordinarily take that convenience. The Company was composed of four Clowns , a poor Fryer, and *Don Diego* ; as soon as they were out of Town, every one began to relate his Adventures ; the one biaging how he had made his Camerade drunk, and left him behind ; the other how he had pick'd his Fathers Pocket the Night before , to get as much money as would defray him to *Toledo*, and make him merry by the way ; and a third relating how he had not taken his leave of any body , left some who were his Creditors should have desired him to stay a little longer than would have been convenient for him , and that in an ugly house , called a Prison : All these confessions came freely out , and almost all speaking together , so that the noise was so great , that had *Don Diego* had a mind to put in , there had been no room for a word of his ; with this odd entertainment they came to *Illescas* ; as soon as they

they stop'd at the Inn, and were ready to light, one of the Company miss'd his bag, and presently charged the Coach-man with it; he denying that he ever saw it, from words they fell to blows, and the Plaintiff Clown being assisted by the rest of his gang, proved too hard for the Coach-man Defendant, insomuch that they left him upon the stones for dead; at the noise the Inn-keeper, solicited by his daughter, who had commiserated the fall of her poor *Phaeton*, came out with his servants, and then the fray begun anew, though the Fryer on one hand, and *Don Diego* on the other, did use very peaceable interpositions and exhortations. The rumour continuing, brought the Judge and his Officers upon them, who began with seising the Chariot and its Mules, then fell on the parties, and had in his general capture comprehended our Friend *Don Diego*, for all his moderation, if some Country Gentlemen coming in had not known him, and answered for his appearance, if need were; and indeed he had so disguised himself in conformity to his Company, that it was no wonder he was like to suffer with them; whereby a Man may learn, that it is no ill maxim



to wear good Cloathes, when you are in a place where few people know who you are, for then they speak for you; and recommend you to people of quality. Our Adventurer having met in the Inn a very pretty Lady of pleasure, staid at *Illescas* for her sake five or six daies, she having given him certain liberties, which had made him loose his own to her for a while; the cure of this his Amorous disease, was not performed without some bleeding from his Purse, which is a sort of evacuation which to many people is more painfull than that of their Veins: As soon as he was well, he took leave of his Doctor, who would willingly have continued on to prescribe, and hired a Mule; passing thus from one Mounture to another, and finding little difference in the hardship of their trots, but much in their vigour, for this last was almost starved, and so weary that it did threaten him with a fall at every step; having for about a League gone very softly, and yet perpetually tottering, he resolv'd to try what effect his spurs would produce, and clapping them to the Beasts side, made it in an endeavour to advance tumble head over heels with our *Don Diego*, who had  
enough

enough to do to free himself from his stirrups, being sufficiently mauled with his fall; he got up, and choosing rather to go a foot, than try his fate again upon such a ruinous Creature, was well content to lead it by the bridle, and so crawl to the next Inn, where he arrived about break of day, having according to his custom begun his journey in the night; he got a very good Breakfast, or rather a good Supper, for with him the evening was Dinner, and the morning Supper time; and then he went to bed, sleeping like one that neither cares of mind, nor indisposition of body did afflict.

About four of the Clock in the afternoon he was waked with the sound of a Post-boys horn, and looking out of his window, perceived that it was an *Alguasil* riding post; he came into the Inn and let the Master know, that he had a Commission from the high Counsell to search all publick houses along the road for certain thieves, who had committed a very great robbery at *Madrid*; the choise that had been made of his person for such an inquiry, being grounded on the singular skill he had in making such discoveries, in which

he often went snips with the thieves themselves, as being the greatest of them all: The Master at the sight of his order, caused all his guests to come forth and appear, and *Don Diego* had been certainly secured for the sake of his ill Cloaths, had not the *Alguasil* by chance knew him.

The Officer having made a very diligent perquisition to no purpose, was about to continue on his way, when *Don Diego* and he walking out at the gate, perceived a good way off, at the entry of the Village, a Funeral coming; it was a Bier carried by two lusty Mules, and attended with four Mourners, and four Monks, all in black: the Monks stop'd at the coming into the Village, and calling the people about them, desired them to joyn in prayer for the dead Man whom they conveyed, and thereupon began to sing the office for the dead; the *Alguasil* and *Don Diego*, not to seem irreligious, drew near, and after their short Commemoration was ended, having cast some holy Water upon the Body, asked one of the Monks, if they had not met people in such and such habits; he answering no, the other asked them, if they had

had not heard of a great robbery committed in *Madrid*; yes, says the Fryer, and here with us is the thief which a great thief has boldly achieved; where is it, said the *Alguasil*, very much concerned; Alas, Sir, said the Monk, the thief is in the Bier, and the thief is death; come Sir, said he, taking the *Alguasil* by the hand, and pulling him towards the Bier, come and see to what poor mortals are subject; the *Alguasil* who hated any thing that did put him in mind of dying, drew back, and getting loose from the Monk, pray Father, said he, let me alone, I am not here to controule the actions of death, neither do I delight in seeing such spectacles; after this he made haste to get up and away.

The Officer being gone, Don Diego took up with the conveyers of the dead body; they unloaded their Mules under a great porch, and caused a table to be covered hard by the Bier, from which they stirred not all the time; they had bespoke an excellent Supper, and seeing Don Diego all alone, invited him to take part of it; he who was not at all ceremonious, and besides very inquisitive naturally into conversations

versations of all sorts of people, accepted their kind offer; they were very merry, and not at all sparing of the delicious liquor, drinking their healths and inclinations round; the Mistress of the house seeing the mourners and the Monks, who pretended to so much mortification, use so little, even when they had an example of death before their eyes, told them merrily, that they did well to make good cheer and rejoyce, for, said she, I am certain there are enough that lament and take on for that poor person which you convey: Truly Madam, answer'd the chief, who sat at the upper end of the table, you have said a thing which is most certain; for without doubt there is at this present a very great affliction in the House out of which this rich body came, and not a poor body as you call it; and that which most grieves the family, is the consideration of his sudden death; alas! he dyed in my arms, and I myself wraped him up in his winding sheet: Be not therefore scandalized to see us take our refection with some jollity, for besides our share of grief for his loss, that of labour and toil in going thus a foot to convoy him to his Sepulchre,

Sepulchre, is very great : Saying this, he filled a glass of Wine, and drank to *Don Diego* the Mistress health ; at last by this carousing, one of the Company having a weaker brain than the rest, grew very sick, and having vomited under the table, fell a sleep in the same place, keeping time with his snoring, to the noise the others made with their talking.

About ten a clock at Night, they that had most of their Wits about them, thought it was time to be marching, it being far from their design to lie in the Village all Night ; whereupon they loaded their Mules, and payed their hostess very well, recommending to her care their drunken Companion ; and having first taken from him his mourning gown, they were solicitous with her to get them another man in his room, to help to guide their Mules, promising to content him very well. *Don Diego* immediately, tempted by his own devilish curiosity, and desirous to know to what place it was that they carried the body, offered to supply the room of him whom wine and sleep had disabled : They received him very gladly, and immediately set out, singing a *requiem eternam*



*eternam* to the health of the dead mans soul; as soon as they were out of the Village, instead of following the road, they took their way through by-paths and lanes, and sometimes over the fields, where there was no way at all; this gave an occasion of thinking to our new mourner: they marched thus about two hours, at the end of which they came to a very high mountain, where there was nothing but woods and precipices, a fit receptacle for none but Bears and Wolves; being entred into the wildest and most secret place of it, the chief turning to his fellows, said with a loud voice, It is now time, Brethren, that we dismember this body; I, I, said another, this is the fittest place in the World for such an operation: our Adventurer was extremely astonished to hear such a sentence pronounced, and could not guess to what end they had resolv'd to treat the poor Corps so ill; yet seeing they did not explain themselves any further to him, he withdrew a little, to see what the effect of such a barbarous resolution would be: He had but just gone aside, when he perceived by their looks and words, that they did not agree about the division of the body,

dy, and it was not long before from words they came to blows ; immediately they all drew short Swords, which they had hid under their gowns , ( as well the venerable Monks as the rest ) and with them Pistols, and being very much animated with their Wine and interest , began a very bloody fight. At the noise of the Pistols going off, the Mules were so frightened that they run away, snoring and starting as if they had been mad. *Don Diego*, who was not provided for such Company, thought it his best course to follow the Mules, and endeavour to stop them ; but they having already got into a narrow lane, hedged in on both sides , and but just wide enough for them and their burden , made it impossible for our Adventurer to get before them ; all that he could do therefore, was to follow them in a very uneven way, stumbling ever and anon, and sometimes falling ; having besides his imagination full of all the horrors of death, and altogether taken up with the strange Metamorphosis of his Mourners and Monks , into Souldiers, and of their Breviaries and Beads, into Swords and Pistols ; he could not sufficiently wonder at their inhumanity , to

go about to dismember a person of quality, and one whom they were to convey to an honourable rest; and could not guess what new mysteries in burials they would introduce, such as these being far from the ordinary rites of Christian Religion.

Having run about two Leagues, making of such reflections, just as the day began to break, he found he was near a shepherd's little Cottage, where the Mules had stop'd of themselves; the shepherd and his boy, warned by the barking of their dogs, came out, and were at the first sight frightened to see a man all in black, near a hearse covered with the same stuff; but *Don Diego* having approached them, with kind words told them succinctly, that he did convey a dead body, and had lost his way in the Night, desiring to be led to the next Village, and promising them something for their pains: They immediately contented his desire, and brought him into a Village hard by, where he met with a venerable Curate, a man of a very good mean, who had formerly liv'd very handsomly in the World, and was now by fortunes injustice, or indeed rather by her kindness

kindness, reduced to live in this solitary place, where he passed his time in studying and praying, to the great tranquility of his mind; he received *Don Diego* civilly, and afforded him a lodging in his house, as well as his dead man one in his Church: It was a great happiness for our Adventurer to meet with such an host, who could so conveniently lodge both the living and the dead; as soon as he was alone with the Curate, he related to him all the particulars of his Adventure: The Priest could not choose but admire the singularity of it, but was no way able to unriddle the mystery; he treated *Don Diego* very handsomely, with good Wine and sweet Meats, and then put him to bed, where he slept till dinner time, and made the *Germans* leap from the bed to the table; there in the midst of their good chear, the Priest discovering that *Don Diego* had a great deal of wit, was charmed with his conversation, and desired him to stay one day more, during which time it may be some body would come and enquire after the dead body: *Don Diego*, who knew when he was well, easily granted his request, and after dinner they walked out together, taking

king an extream delight in each others company ; but our Adventurer soon observing, that the Curate had a carriage with him which he had never acquired amongst his peasants , took occasion to intreat his host to let him know by what accident he was brought into so solitary a place ; the Parson , who was of a very complaisant humour , without many intreaties , made him the following relation.

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*The*

*The Story of the Curate.*

**S***Evil* was the place of my birth, my Father was a Gentleman, more renowned by his Virtue than for his Riches, and his principal care of me, was to have me instructed in all sort of learning, that in that at least he might leave me a lasting inheritance; The fame of my capacity in all Sciences, and particularly in the Law, being great, divers very good families desired my alliance, and offered me their Daughters with considerable Fortunes, and no less endowments of Beauty and Virtue; but I not being then of a humour to ingage my self, refused all their kind proffers, and liv'd so long a Batchelor, that most people thought I had contracted some secret aversion against the whole sex; but I was not so happy, as to be provided with so strong an Antidote against that passion, which was to Poyson the happiness of my life; a Lady of incomparable Beauty and Virtue was at last the object of my desires, in which I proved so successfull, that she did me the honour to prefer



prefer me in her choice to a great many, whose fortune and quality might have justly attracted her consent ; we were married, and I lived two years with her, in a most happy union and perfect intelligence : but alas ! a most horrid storm interrupted this blessed calm, which considering the inconstancy of all this here below, may have been said to have lasted a great while.

My dear Wife had a Brother, who from a little youthfull wildness, allowable enough in one of his age, became at last the most debauched and loose man of all *Sevil* ; his diversions being come to crimes, he fell often into the hands of Justice, from whence my industry and Money did often reprove him ; but he was so accustomed to disorders of a vicious life, that he could not be without falling into them so often, that at last he wearied my patience as well as his Sisters, and we both resolv'd to forbid him my house, and leave him to the conduct, or rather giddiness of his own brain ; but alas ! my Wife, who had only consented to use her Brother thus out of complaisance to me, could not continue to perform her part, did secretly admit him  
when

when I was away<sup>d</sup>, and relieve him in his necessity, her good nature not being able to see her Brother in distress, though by his own fault; often coming home on a sudden, I would so surprize them, that having no better invention, he would hide himself behind the hangings, hard by the bed-side where we both lay; and because this invention had often succeeded, they did freely use it, whensoever my unexpected arrival did not give him leave to retire. One Night coming home pretty late, I came up staires so softly, that they had not heard me, and just as I was coming into the Chamber, my Wifes Brother endeavouring to get to his hiding place, entangled his foot in the hangings, and fell with a great noise; immediately a furious jealousy taking possession of my breast, I flew upon him before he could get up, and unluckily lighting with one hand upon a dagger, which he wore at his girdle, drew it in my passion, and struck it deeply into him three or four times; his Voice at the wounds he had received, made him known to me, whereupon frighted with the horror of my fact, I let him rise, and he having yet strength

I

enough,

enough, and desirous of revenge, drew his Sword, and in a precipitant manner, not discerning objects in the dark, made a thrust which pierced my Wife through the heart, just as his out-cry had brought her to his assistance; they both fell, bleeding out their souls, and to say truth he did as much revenge himself in killing his Sister, as if he had effected his design upon me, for I lived more in her than in my self; my people upon the dismalness of our noise, coming in with lights, exposed to my view the person that I loved above all the World, just fetching her last groan; at that, seised with a most violent grief, and resolving to dye, but not without making satisfaction for the enormity of my crime, I ran out of my House, and going to the Judge of Criminal Causes, rendred my self his Prisoner, desiring him to prosecute the Law against me. This was the last act of my reason, for a little after I ran mad out of the extremity of sorrow; upon that the Law ceased its pursuit against me, and I was put into *Bedlam*, where for seven years together I was the object of scorn and derision of every body who came to see the place: At the end of that time,

time, by a singular providence, I came to my self again, and my Friends with much ado, and more money, got my pardon from Court, and my liberty; but I found my self without any estate, it having all been squandered during my distraction; much about that time an antient Uncle of mine enjoyed this small Benefice you see here, and hearing of my condition, resign'd it to me a little before his death; I for my part having alwaies had an inclination to Books and learning, imbraced voluntarily this solitary innocent sort of life, passing with tranquillity the rest of those dayes, the beginning of which have been troubled with so great storms.

Just as the Priest made an end of his relation, the Sun took leave of the Earth, and made them do the like of the fountain, and retire to the Village; as soon as they came near the Church, they found it open, which being something extraordinary, the Curate went in, followed by *Don Diego*, and found in it a great number of mourners, who had just then brought thither the dead body of the Lord of the Mannor; and they were in great contest with the Vicar, because they had found in the

Chauncell a strange body, it being a place which belonged only to the Lord of the Mannor: the Curate appeased them, and *Don Diego* coming up, and being somewhat concerned that his dead man should not be able to find rest any where, bethought himself of a stratagem to hinder their throwing him out of the Church, and desired they would give him some dayes time, in which he hoped to prove, that his dead body had a relation to that of their Lord; he did this only because he supposed the mourners would be gone the next day, and so leave him the liberty of burying the Corps: In the mean time, the Parson having enquired into the cause of the sudden death of his Patron, was told that it had proceeded from a great grief, which he took for the loss of two thousand Ducats, which some thieves at *Madrid* had rob'd him of in the Night, four dayes ago: This was the same robbery for the discovering of which the *Alguasil*, which *Don Diego* had met with in his Inn, was going post; and indeed the diligence of the dead Lords Heirs was such, that having dispatched people on all hands upon the inquiry, some of them at last met at the

the entry of a Wood with a fellow, whom for his suspicious looks they seized upon and searched; they found his pockets full of pick-locks, and such other instruments, whereupon they immediately brought him before the Judge of the Village where *Don Diego* was; there for fear of being rack'd, he confessed all as followeth.

That he had been with seven more assistant at a great robbery committed at *Madrid*; that to transport their prey the more securely, they had disguised themselves like Monks and Mourners, and had buried their prize in a hearse, which they had loaded upon two Mules, and attended it as if it had been a dead body; that by the help of this invention, they had passed all Guards, and avoided all searches; that they had rested themselves at a Village, where he had unluckily taken too much Wine, and was left a sleep by his Camerades, who had taken his Mourning and given it to another, whom they had hired; that as soon as he was awake, knowing the place they were going to, he had followed them, and that he was much surprized at his arrival to find two of them dead, and the rest lye wounded upon the

I 3 ground,



ground, in little hopes of life; that all that he could get from them was; that during their conflict the Stranger whom they had hired was run away with their Mules, and their booty; and that he was taken by them, as he was endeavouring to find out the trace of the Mules.

By this ample declaration, the Judge came to know that that was the robbery which had precipitated the old Lord into his Grave, and immediately sent for the Curate and *Don Diego*, to acquaint them with it; great was their admiration, they go immediately to the Chauncell, where were the two bodies, the one of the Lord, and the other of his treasure; it was opened in presence of witnesses, and found entire; they sent post to the Heir, who came transported with joy to view the truth of so good tidings; he forgave the poor thief who had revealed, & made the Jaylor let him make his escape. The next effect of his gratitude, was to *Don Diego*, whom he would have presented very handsomely; but he who was noble and generous, refused all other testimonies of his kindness, besides the honour of his Friendship: After that he presented his Curate with the  
two

two Mules, and so took leave, carrying along with him the richest of the two dead bodies.

*Don Diego* after this would have taken leave of the Curate, but could not get away; his intreaties to stay being so cordial, and his conversation so good, he stayed with him eight dayes, discoursing with him of the vanities of the World, and the Sovereign happiness, or *summum bonum* of mankind, which they settled in a tranquil contempt for the pleasures of this life.

The day of his depart came at last, and though he would have excused himself with many Complements, from taking one of the Mules which the Curate offered him, it was not in his power to do it, but engaged in requital to keep a perpetual correspondence with this honest Parson, and divert his solitude sometimes with the news of the Court: Our Adventurer having thus taken his leave, was spurr'd with a desire of being at *Madrid*, which made him infuse the like passion into his Mule, whose legs were better than those of that other, whose weariness had brought him into all this Adventure.

## Adventure the ninth.

**I**T would have been very necessary for *Don Diego*, to have stayed a little longer with this venerable Church-man, for it maybe his conversation in time might have reformed something of the extravagancy of his customs: As soon as ever he came to *Madrid*, he sent word of his arrival to all his Camerades, desiring them to meet him at the old Club, which was at a Tavern where the best Wine was sold: Eight of this mad gang failed not at the assignation, and there having renewed their acquaintance, and confirmed their League by some Bachuick Ceremonies, they all walked out with their Guittars; after some Serenades given to their respective Mistresses, they stopped before an Apothecaries door, whom they resolved to make the subject of that Nights entertainment: It was *Don Diego* that did bear him a spight, ever since the great disease he had when *Leander* dyed, and his Wife turned Nun; for this Apothecary being *Diego's* Neighbour, had out of malice seeing that  
our

our Adventurer did not make use of him, caused his Prentices to make such a damnable noise upon two bras Mortars all day long, that it was impossible for *Don Diego* to sleep; his intreaties and prayers had signified nothing towards the silencing of the Mortars, for he was still answered, that he must follow his Trade, and that Seignior *Don Diego* would not keep him and his family, if they should neglect their vocation to let him enjoy his rest; so that at last he was fain to fine for silence for a fortnight, at a pretty round rate, and that at the end of his disease too, having suffered much before by that troublesome chiming. All this considered, and by our Adventurer related to the Company, inflamed them, who were already heated with Wine, to a desire of revenge; but *Diego* who was chiefly concerned, resolved also to be the main actor, and advancing to the door, bounced at it as if he would have beat it down; the Apothecary who was just got to bed, was loath to rise, but answering from his bed, began the following Dialogue with *Don Diego*, affecting still a little Latin in it, to shew he had enough to understand the Doctors bill.

The

*The Apothecary.*

Who's that that knocks so hastily *ad Pertam meam*? either they are insipid fellows, or worshipfull Constable, for none else durst be so bold at this time of the Night.

*Don Diego.*

Pray Sir does not there live hereabouts a certain half Doctor, otherwise an Apothecary, called *Mr. Robert*?

*The Apothecary.*

Master *Robert*! he may be Doctor *Robert* *omnino* I hope for you; 'tis here he lives, and speaks to you in *propria persona*; speak without prolixity, what would you have?

*Don Diego.*

Alas Sir, is it you? I beg your pardon; pray Sir do not abuse me, if it be you open the door quickly, for I am in great haste, my poor Friend is a dead Man if you do not assist him at this very instant.

*The Apothecary.*

I know you not, neither will I open my door at this time of the Night.

*Don Diego.*

Good Sir do not neglect the Gentleman;

man; the Physitian told us he had left his Prescription here, I hope you have not forgot to make what he ordered.

The Apothecary.

Oh! now, *Deo gratias*, I begin to understand you; Is it not for the Neapolitan Gentleman you mean, who has so great a pain in his Stomach?

Don Diego.

I, I, 'tis for him.

The Apothecary.

Why is he in such haste? my Man told me the Physitian had ordered only for Thursday, which is *dies crastinus*.

Don Diego.

For Thursday! Alas Sir your Man was mistaken, and it was for to day; if you fail to send it, the Gentleman will go near to dye for want of it.

The Apothecary.

Friend do not take snuff, but have patience a little and I'll rise, and within a quarter of an hour the Composition shall be ready.

Don Diego.

Pray Sir make haste, you know the Gentleman will recompence you well; but  
pray



pray have a care of a mistake; in the mean time I'll go let him know that you are coming.

At these words making as if he had gone away, he only retired to the rest of the Company, and then drawing softly near the Apothecaries door, he heard him call his man; and gave him these orders: Ho, *James*, where is that purge which we made last week for the sick Lawyer, that dyed as I was carrying it to him? take it and carry it to this *Neapolitan*, it will do as well; his distemper is the same: At these words *Diego* was fain to retreat, not being able to keep himself from laughing, and having acquainted his Camerades with it, mov'd in them the same passion; but withall they gave him a thousand curses for his damned Composition, taking from him a strong aversion against that poysoning Trade, which is a Plague greater than any Pestilence, as killing continually all the year round, and that with privilege and protection too.

To see what this would end in, they resolv'd to stop at the end of the Street, and dog the Apothecary to the place and person who was to be so unfortunate as

to be poysoned for their mirth; they had not stayed above half a quarter of an hour, when out comes the Apothecary *semi-Doctor* with a glass in his hand; they follow him one by one, and saw him go in to a *Neapolitan* Gentlemans house; after a great deal of stay he was forc'd to make at the door, for God knows they did not sit up for him, the Gentleman was one of those crazy people who are alwayes drenching themselves, and making an Apothecaries Shop of their belly; as for him, though he were really infirm, yet having a false opinion of his distempers, he did continually increase them, by fancying them greater than indeed they were; he was very superstitious in observing punctually his Physicians orders, and it seems they had ordered him to be purg'd within two or three dayes; he had a *Valet de Chambre*, upon whose care he extreamly relyed for the administration of his Medicaments, leaving to him to know the hours, the seasons, the quantitics, and all the other little circumstances upon which sick people of quality think that all the effect of the remedy depends: The *Valet* had taken the last prescription from  
the

the Physicians, and sent it to the Apothecary, but finding by it that his Master was to take nothing till within two dayes, took that time to go and visit a young Wench he was in love with; and it fell out unluckily, that our Apothecary brought his admirable Composition, just as the *Valet de Chambre* was gone out; upon that the Master believing the Apothecary, who said that some body of the house had been at his Shop, and ordered him to bring immediately this laxative potion, swallowed without more ado this dangerous draught.

In the mean time our Adventurer and his company, having been very merry at the pleasant effect that their drollery was like to produce, thought they had done enough for this Night, and resolved to retire to their Lodging, and put off to the next day to enquire into the success of the Physick which *Don Diego* had prescrib'd the *Neapolitan*: As they were going home, they perceiv'd they were but seven, and that one of the Company was missing; enquiring for him, another who knew his secrets, told them he was gone about some business in which he needed no Companion;

panion; but to satisfy the Reader he must know,

That *Robert* the Apothecary had a very pretty daughter, but so proud that she despised all the young Shop-keepers in their quarter, and would receive courtship from none but young Gentlemen of quality, whom nevertheless she made to keep their distance, by the Empire of her beauty; *Riodan*, who was this Camerade of *Don Diego's* that was missing, had long been a passionate Servant to her, and now at last by means of the Maid, whom he had corrupted with gifts, had got an assignation from the Mistress, being promised to be introduced into her Chamber, when her Father and Mother should be asleep. He happening that evening to be in the Company of *Don Diego* at Supper, had continued with them, after seeing that they went that way whither he himself was designed; but he was infinitely pleased when he saw the success of *Diego's* frolick, as being the luckiest thing he could wish for; immediately as they followed the Father, he stole to the door, and upon his signal was let in by the Maid: She led him softly to *Dorothea's* Lodging, which was  
upon

upon the same floor with her ancient Mothers chamber, and only divided by a Wainscote separation; As soon as he came into the room, she rose up as it were surpriz'd, and being half undressed, discovered to the passionate *Riodan* such lovely breasts, and so fine a skin, that he could no longer keep the respect he was wont to have for her, but embracing her in his arms, began to pass on to a further privacy; the Lady, who was no fool, knowing the consequence of such an action, thrust him back with a kind of coldness, and told him he was mistaken if he thought to enjoy her otherwise than his Wife. *Riodan* could do no other than approve of her virtuous resolution, and offered to give any assurances of his fidelity, that such a time and occasion would admit of; that if she would be content with a promise of Marriage under his hand, he would give it her immediately: *Dorothea* who had a kindness for him, thought that a sufficient engagement from a person of quality, and bid her Maid give him paper and pen and ink to write it: She did, and he having writ a very fair one, and shewed it to *Dorothea*, was going to sign it, when unluckily  
with

with his elbow he overthrew the standish, which was a great leaden one, and stood upon the end of the Table; it fell upon a brass Mortar, and made such a noise, that *Dorothea's* Mother started up out of her sleep, and cryed, who's there? not being answered by the two Lovers, who were as it were thunder-struck, she with much ado crawled out of her bed, and was coming to her Daughters chamber, in which she saw a light: *Dorothea* mistrusting some such thing, and not knowing where to hide *Riodan*, had with much ado prevailed upon him to go away, and was just thrusting him hastily out of her chamber, as her Mother was in the entry coming into it; they both met full butt, and the old Woman being weak, fell down with the knock, crying murder, murder, while *Riodan* stumbling over her got away; the Daughter mightily frightened with her Mothers outcry, and not knowing what to do, nor how to shelter her self from her Fathers anger, when he should come home, ran after *Riodan*, and having overtaken him in the Street, desired him to carry her away and protect her, relying entirely upon his generosity: The



Maid who had been the mediatrix of their loves, leaving her old Mistress upon the ground calling out for help, followed the two Lovers; at last at the old Womans desolate cries, some Neighbours heard her, and came in; they searched all the house, but found no body.

In the mean time *Dorothea's* Father, having left his damnable Medicine in the *Neapolitan* Gentlemans body, comes home, and finds all in desolation; his Wife almost dead, his Daughter run away, and no body able to tell why, or with whom: Great was his amazement, but greater his rage, when he came to himself; but let us leave him a little, and see what effect the Physick wrought.

The Potion being old, made of ill Drugs, and given out of time, and upon a full Stomach, the Gentleman having Supp'd a little before, it made him most horrid sick, giving him gripes which made him often cry, *oime questo cane traditore ma amazzato*: He passed a whole Night in these pangs, and in the morning his *Valet de Chambre* being come in, he reproached him with being the cause of his death, in bidding the Apothecary give him

him Physick so out of season; the *Valet* very innocent, swears and protests that he never was there, and that the disorder did proceed either from the ignorance or malice of the Apothecary, who he believed had done this of his own head, according to their pragmatistical custom; immediately he runs to the Physitian, and brings him along with him to see his Master; the Physitian being come, and having felt the sick mans pulse, grew very angry, saying, the Apothecary was a Knave; immediately he gave the Patient some excellent Cordials, which were a pretty good Antidote against the venom of this Poyson: That done, he has the Apothecary cited before the Faculty of Physitians, to answer for his lawciness and ignorance, in giving Physick of his own head. Now let us return to him. Having a little asswaged his passion, the first thing he resolved, was to bestir himself generously for the reparation of his honour, and to be revenged of him that had thus affronted him: Having long considered and ruminated with himself, who it might be that had carried away his Daughter, he could find his conjectures upon none

more probably as he thought, than upon *Agrimont*, the *Neapolitan* Gentlemans *Valet de Chambre*; he was a spruce young idle fellow, that used alwayes when he came to his house, to be saying some obliging thing or other to his Daughter, to which she answering merrily, he thought might have obliged him to have framed this enterprize; and that the better to effect it, he had made him rise and carry the Medicine, employing on that errand some other of his fellow servants, while he himself was got in to his Daughter. Thus prepossess'd, he goes to the Criminal Judge, and upon his complaint, gets a Warrant and Officers to arrest and imprison *Agrimont* for a rape: Master *Robert* having this, made such diligence, and feed so well the Catchpoles, that they seised my *Valet de Chambre* in a few hours, and hurried him away to Prison: But almost at the same time, by an order from the Faculty of Physicians, he was arrested, and brought before them, to give an account for his giving the *Neapolitan* Physick without order; out of which difficulty not being able to disentangle himself, and taking it to be only a trick of the *Neapolitan*, to hinder the pursuit against

against his *Valet de Chambre*, he was so perplex'd that he fell sick of a very violent burning Feaver. *Agriment* in the mean time, seeing himself clapped up upon a false accusation, for having ravished a young Woman whom he had not seen, was in a great rage at the Apothecary, and did by Letters incite his Master, who loved him, to take a signal revenge upon poor *Robert*; they were four whole dayes in these perplexities and confusions, like to dye, or run mad: By that time *Riordan*, the true *Paris* of this *Helena*, had very generously Married her at a little Village, about two Leagues off; and being advertised by a Friend of the horrid disorder that was amongst so many people for his sake, came to the Town with his Wife, and having first writ a complement to the Apothecary, in which he called him Father, promising him to love his Daughter as his Wife, he went to see him; great was the joy of our poor Master *Robert*, at this good news; he embraced his Son-in-Law, made a great satisfaction and reparation to *Agriment*, for the injury he had done him; and as for the Potion given out of time, his Son-in-Law having

been one of that Club, told him all the story of it, confirming the like to the Physicians, who else were ready to have fined him.

The Apothecary would fain have had an action against *Don Diego*, but *Riodan* being unwilling to see his Friend in trouble, hindred *Roberts* pursuit against our Adventurer; yet the Judge coming to hear the story, and having besides a relation given him of *Don Diego's* extravagant life, sent for him, and by publick sentence commanded him to live as other people did, binding him in a good sum of Money to retire to his lodging by ten of the Clock in Summer, and by nine in Winter, at the latest.

He was forced to submit, to his great regret, and observes to this day that severe order, which put an end to all his Adventures, as it must (Reader) to your curiosity, till he break it, and give us matter to make a second volume of his Life.

F I N I S.



THE  
MARRIAGE  
OF  
Belphegor.

An *ITALIAN* Novel,  
Translated from *Machiavel*.

**I**T is recorded in the ancient Chronicles of *Florence*, that a certain holy Person, whose life was the admiration of that age, falling one day into a Trance, had a very strange apparition: It seem'd to him, that the Souls of Married Men that came trooping in great numbers to Hell, cried out all of them as they pass'd, that



that their Marriage was the cause of their Misery, and their Wives the occasion of their coming thither: *Aminos Radamanth*, and the whole infernal Privy-Council, were amazed at the clamour; at first they could not believe there was any thing in the business, but at last observing the same complaints continually multiplied, they thought it fit to make *Pluto* acquainted: *Pluto* understanding the report, without imparting any thing to his Wife, (who had taken Physick that Week, and kept her Chamber) resolv'd the matter should be accurately examin'd, and such course be taken, as was likeliest to make the speediest discovery of the truth: He issu'd out his Writs immediately, and assembled his Courts; his Princes, Dukes, Counts, and Barons, were all present; never was Senate so full, nor never was affair of that importance before it: The holy Father that beheld all, affirms positively, that *Pluto* delivered himself in this manner.

Right Trusty and well-Beloved,  
 Though our Kingdom was assigned us from  
 Heaven, and the fatal decree has anciently  
 determined our Dominion: Though that  
 sentence

sentence be irrevocable, and above the cogni-  
 sance of any Humane Power, yet seeing his  
 prudence is most safe, that is dictated by Laws,  
 and his judgement most solid, that is fortified  
 with others, we are resolv'd to take your  
 Counsels along with us, which way we are to  
 steer in an affair, that otherwise may prove  
 (in time) of great dishonour to our Govern-  
 ment. The Souls of married Men, that are  
 continually flacking into our Dominions, do  
 unanimously exclaim against their Wives, as  
 the only persons that send them tumbling hi-  
 ther; to us it seems impossible: yet forasmuch  
 as a peremptory and determinate sentence  
 upon their bare allegations, would not suit  
 with our Satanical Mercy; so a careless pre-  
 termission on the other side, could not be with-  
 out reflection on our Justice: That mat-  
 ters of such importance therefore may have  
 their due disquisition, and Our administration  
 be defended from obloquy or scandal, that no  
 inconveniency may follow for want of delibe-  
 ration, and that some better expedient may  
 be found out, than our selves have happily  
 thought on, We have thought good to call you  
 together, being confident and assured by the  
 assistance of your Counsels, the Honour and  
 Reputation of our Empire will be continued  
 as

*as unquestionable for the future, as it has been preserved hitherto, by our own proper care solicitude.*

There was not one present, but acknowledged it a business of importance, and well worthy an exact consideration: It was the opinion of the whole Board, that all imaginable means was to be used to find out the truth, but what means that was, could not be agreed on; some were of opinion, a single person was to be dispatcht into this World; and no more; others judged it better to send several, and that the discovery would be more certain from the experience of many, than of one; a third sort, more brisk and severe in their Counsels, thought that clutter unnecessary, and that clapping good store of them together upon the rack, would be enough doubtless to extort a confession. However it was at last carried by the plurality of Voices, that a single person only should be sent, and in this resolution the whole Company acquiesc'd: Nevertheless there being no body found that would voluntarily undertake the employment, it was concluded the election should be by lot; and at the same time, having made their billets

lers and shuffled them, the lot fell upon *Belphegor*.

One may say, and say true, that fortune never decided any thing so justly; for *Belphegor* was no ordinary Devil, and *Pluto* having made him formerly Generalissimo of his Armies, 'tis to be presumed he was no Novice; for all this he had a Month's mind to be quit of his embassie, but the order being unalterable, he was forc'd to submit, and accept these conditions that were solemnly decreed, *That a hundred thousand Ducats should be paid him immediately, to defray the expences of his journey; That he should assume the shape of a Man; That he should take a Woman to his wedded Wife, and live with her (if possible) ten years; that at the end of the term, (pretending to die) he should give her the slip, repair immediately to his old quarters, and make affidavit upon his own experience of all the pleasures and calamities of Matrimony.* It was declared to him also, that during this Metamorphosis, he was to be subject to the pains and misfortunes of Humanity, as sickness, imprisonment, and poverty: But that if by his cunning or dexterity he could disintangle him-

him-

himself, it should be allowed him, and not imputed as any scandal or reproach. *Belphegor* accepts the conditions, receives his Ducats, and having drawn a spruce party of horse out of his Guards, and furnish'd himself with Pages and Footmen good store, he set out immediately for this World, and arrived at *Florence* in a very fair equipage: He chose that place above all other, for the conveniency of improving his Moneys, and putting it to interest with greater advantage. He called himself *Don Roderick of Castile*; he took a very noble House in the Fauxburg of *All-Saints*; and that his quality might be undiscovered, he gave out that he was a *Spaniard*, that being young he took a Voyage into *Syria*, that he had dwelt some time in *Aleppo*, where he had got most part of his Estate; but being weary there, he was come into *Italy*, as a Country more agreeable with his humour, with intention (if any fair opportunity was offered) to Marry: *Don Roderick* seemed to be a very handsome Man, about thirty years of age; and in short time after his arrival, he made it evident enough that he was rich, and by his liberality, that he knew how to make the

the best use of them ; insomuch as several Gentlemen of *Florence*, that had more Daughters than Money, took all possible pains to insinuate how welcome he should be into their Alliance. *Don Roderick*, that had choice of Mistresses, prefer'd one that was transcendently handsome before them all ; the story says, she was called *Honest*, and was the Daughter of *Americ Donati*, who had three more also to Marry, and three Sons between twenty or twenty five years of age: But though *Seignur Americ* was of one of the noblest Families of *Florence*, yet he was look'd upon as down the winde, and one that was overlaid with too many Children, and the unavoidable charges of his Nobility: But *Don Roderick* took an order for that, defraying the whole expence of his Wedding ; out of his own purse managing all things with that splendor and magnificence, that there was nothing omitted that was desirable upon such an occasion. It was mentioned before, as one of the conditions propos'd to *Belphegor*, that as soon as he was out of the Infernal Dominions, he should be subject to all the passions of mankind ; and accordingly he began



gan immediately to take delight in the Honours and Gallantry of the World; and as cunning a Devil as he was, to be wheedled with the flatteries and applauses of Men: But that which delighted him so much, cost him dear; besides that he had not been long with *Honest*, but he fell stark mad in love with her, and finding something or other extraordinary in her, that I cannot think of, he was so far enamoured, he never thought himself happy before; insomuch as when she was melancholly, or out of humour, he would curse his Commission, and take his corporal Oath his very life was tedious. On the other side it is not to be forgot, that *Honest* marrying *Roderick*, and bringing him Beauty and Nobility instead of a Portion, she thought it not fit to leave her pride and untractableness behind her; these two good qualities were so eminently in her, that *Roderick* who had been used to *Lucifers*, and had more than once had experience of it, swore point Blank his Wives insolence was beyond it: For when she once found the fondness and passion her Husband had for her, believing she could manage him with a Switch, and order him

as she pleased, she carried her self like his Sovereign, and handled him without pity or respect; and if it hapned he denied her any thing, she gave him immediately to understand, that she was also as eloquent in scoulding, as others of her quality. By this you may judge what a cooler this was to *Don Roderick*: Nevertheless the consideration of his Father-in-Law, his Wifes Brothers, the Kindred he had by that blessed Marriage, but above all the passion and tenderness he had for her, made him endure all patiently. I shall not mention the expence of his Cloaths, which though never forrich, he was forc'd to change every week, according to the ordinary vanity of the Ladies in *Florence*. Besides these there were other things, were of no less inconvenience; he was forc'd (to preserve the peace) to assist his Father-in-Law in the Marriage of his other Daughters, which cost him a good round sum: Moreover that all things might go well, and his correspondency continue with his Consort, he was glad to send one of her Brothers into the *Levant* with wollen Stuffs, another into *France* and *Spain* with Silks, and to furnish the third with wherewithall to set up

up a Goldsmiths-shop in *Florence*: All which afflictions together were sufficient to discompose any Devil of a thousand, yet he had other thrown into the bargain: There is not any Town in all *Italy* more extravagant in their expences, in their Carnivals and Feasts of *St. John*, than *Florence*: And *Honest* upon that occasion, must needs have her *Roderick* out do all people of his Rank, in the sumptuousness of his entertainments, in the magnificence of his Balls, and other divertisements that are usual at those times: He suffered all these calamities, for the same reasons he endured the rest; and though perhaps these difficulties were very hard and unpleasant, he would have thought them supportable, could he have been satisfied his patience would have procured any quietness in his Family, and that he might have peaceably attended the hour of his destruction. But *Don Roderick* found the clear contrary; besides the expence you have heard he occasioned, her insolence was accompanied with a thousand other inconveniencies, insomuch as he could keep neither officer nor servant in his house, above three dayes together. This was a severe trouble to him,

to find it was impossible for him to keep any body about him, though never so well experienc'd or affected to his affairs: Nor indeed could any body blame them for taking their leaves, when the Devils themselves that he brought along with him, did choose rather to return, and toast the bottoms of their feet against the fire of Hell, than live in this World under the dominion of so super-devilish a Woman. *Rodericks* life being thus miserably uncomfortable, and his stock that he had reserved, exhausted by her extravagant expences, he was reduced to that pass, he subsisted only upon the hopes of the advantage he should make, by the return of some Vessels he had sent into the East and West. And whereas before he had very good credit in that Town, to continue it and keep up his Port, he borrowed Money of such as are used in that place to put it out; but those kind of people being such, as are not usually sleepy or negligent in their affairs, they took notice immediately he was not over-punctual to his day: His purse being already empty, and he reduced to the highest extremity, at one dash he receives news of two as disastrous accidents,

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dents, as could possibly befall him. The first was, that one of *Honestas* Brothers had lost at Hazzard all that *Roderick* had intrusted in his hands; and the other was no more welcome, which was, that his other Brother-in-Law returning into *Italy*, was himself cast away, and all his goods. The business was no sooner known in *Florence*, but his Creditors had a meeting, where giving him over for one that was irrecoverably lost, and not daring to discover themselves, because the time of payment was not yet come, they concluded he was to be watcht very close, lest he should chouse them, and shew them a light pair of heels. *Don Roderick of Castile* on the other side, considering with himself his affairs were past remedy, and also the terms he was obliged to by the infernal Law, resolves to take horse and be gone without more ado, which he performed without much difficulty, living conveniently for that by the Port *del Prato*; yet he was no sooner marcht off, but the alarm was taken by his Creditors; they repair immediately to the Magistrates, and pursue him not only with Post and Officers, but lest a certain number of Ducats should debauch that

that kind of Cattle, who are no better in *Italy* than other places, and prevail with them for an abatement of their speed, they follow him themselves in a full body, with impatience of hearing some tydings of him. *Roderick* in the mean time was no fool, but considered very well what he had to do; as soon as he was gallop'd about half a league from the Town, he leaves the high way, and his horse with it (the Country being inclosed and full of ditches on both sides) and was forced to make the rest of his journey on foot, which he did very successfully; for wandring up and down under the shelter of the Vines and Reeds, that abound much in those parts, he arrived at last at *Peretola*, at the house of *Fean Matteo del Bricca*, Bailly to *Fean del Bene*.

By very good fortune, he meets *Matteo* carrying fodder to his Cattle; he accosts him immediately, and promises him as he was a Gentleman, that if he would deliver him from the Catchpoles that were in pursuit of him, with design to clap him up and starve him in Prison, he had an invention in his pate would make him rich out of hand, and of this he would give such



evidence before he departed, as should assure him of his truth and fidelity; and if I do not, sayes he, with a damn'd imprecation, I will be content to be delivered up into their clutches that persecute me. Now you must understand, that though *Matteo* was a Hinde and a Peasant, yet the fellow had cunning enough, and knew on which side his bread was buttered; he considered, if he undertook him and miscarried, he had nothing to lose; and that if he succeeded, he should be made for ever; without any more ado therefore he promises him protection, and clapping him close upon a dunghill that was before the gate, he covered him over with brush-faggots and reeds, and such other fewel as lay there in readiness for the fire: And indeed he was no sooner in his retirements, but in came the Creditors with full cry; they swaggared and laid about them like Lords, but all to no purpose, *Matteo* could not be perswaded to confess so much as that he saw him; insomuch as marching on still in the pursuit, but with as little success as they came thither, they gave *Roderick* and their Money over for lost, and returned to *Flo-*  
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rence every jot as wise as they were before : The Coast being clear in this manner, and the alarm over, *Matteo* steals to the closet where he had left *Roderick*, gives him a little fresh air, and conjures him to be as good as his word : *Roderick* was very honest in that point, and I dare say never any Devil, as to matters of gratitude, had more of a Gentleman ; he gave him thanks for the great obligation he had received ; he swore over and over again, he would do whatever lay in his power to discharge himself of his promise, and in the heat and height of his complements, to convince him that he meant as he said, he gives him the whole story as you have had it, and at last told him the very way that he had pitch'd upon to make him a Prince : Know then, sayes he, that whenever you hear of any Lady that is possess'd, 'tis no other Devil but I that have possess'd her ; and be sure I will never leave her, till you come your self and force me from my quarters, after which you have wit enough to make your own terms for your payment. They had very few words more, he only gave him the Summer set once or twice, and shewed him two or three jugling tricks, and vanish'd.

A while after there was a great noise about the Town, that *Mef. Ambrosio Amidei's* Daughter, that was Married to *Bonaculo Thebalducci's* Son, was possess'd; her Father and Mother did not fail to use all the remedies are usual in so deplorable a case; they brought before her *St. Zanobes* Head, and *St. J. Gilberts* Cloak, which was nuts to *Belphegor*, and made him nothing but laugh: There was no body in her but *Don Roderick de Castile*, who was as ingenious a Gentleman-devil as one would wish, and that the world might take notice that this was no fantastick imagination, nor fit of the Night-mare, nor any such trifle, but that she was really possess'd, she spake Latin better than *Tully* ever Writ, disputed in Philosophy, and discovered the secrets and sins of several people that were there, who were very much surpriz'd to find the Devil concern himself with those kind of affairs.

Amongst the rest there was one holy Father he did a great discourtesie to, in blurring out before the whole company, as if he had kept a young Lads four years together in his Cell, in the habit of a young Monk; and after all this, let any body

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judge whether the possession was not like to be true; *Ambrosio* in the mean time was in great affliction for his Daughter; he had tryed all the wayes that Physick or Religion could propose, but to no purpose; so as he was brought to the highest point of despair, when *Matteo* came to him, and undertook the cure of his Daughter, if he would give him five hundred *Florins*, which he designed to lay out in Land at *Peretola*: In short, *Matteo* was an honest fellow, and would have done the miracle *gratis*, and like a Gentleman, but his pockets were hollow, and he had great occasion for Money at that time; Seignior *Ambrosio* accepts the conditions, and *Matteo* falls to work; he began very civilly with certain Masses and other Ceremonies, that he might appear the more formal in the business; at length he stole to the Ladies ear, calls *Roderick*, and tells him he was come thither to him, and did require him to be as good as his word. Content says *Roderick*, and that you may see I shall deal with you like a person of quality, take notice, that because this expedition is not enough to enrich you, and do your business, I will befriend you more than

once, for which reason as soon as I am departed from hence, away I'll march into the Daughter of *Charles* the King of *Naples*, and don't fear but I'll stick to her, till you come to exercise me, so as there you may make up your markets at a blow, & become considerable for ever: but be sure after that I be troubled with you no more; and as soon as he had said so, whip says he out of the Lady, and was gone to the great joy and astonishment of the whole Town.

*Belphegor* in the mean time was as good as his word, as he promised *Matteo*; away he goes, and in two or three days time it was all over *Italy*, that the Daughter of *Charles* King of *Naples*, was in the same condition; which was good news for *Matteo*, who was at this bout to gain the Philosophers-stone: In short, he tryed all means possible; the Monks went to work with their prayers, and their crosses, but to no purpose; The Devil would not budge till *Matteo* came himself, who had formerly oblig'd him. The King had news of what had happened at *Florence*, and sends away immediately for *Matteo* to his Court, who came accordingly, and after some few ceremonious formalities, counterfeited

terfeited for concealment of the mystery, he cures his daughter. However *Roderick* before his departure, as is reported in the *Chronicle*, accosted him in this manner: You see, *Matteo*, I have been as good as my word ; you see you are become rich in a trice , and may take your ease for the future ; so as if I be not mistaken, I have discharged my self as to you very honestly, hereafter have a care how you come near me; foras hitherto I have dore you knights-service, henceforward I will do you as much mischief as I can. *Matteo* being returned to *Florence* very wealthy, (for the King of *Naples* had given him above five thousand Ducats) he thought of nothing now but injoying that peaceably he had got, never imagining *Roderick* would do him any harm ; but his designs were much frustrated by a report out of *France* , that *Lewis* the seventh's Daughter was possess'd as the former: *Matteo* was in great trouble , on the one side he was not ignorant of the power of that Prince , on the other he remembered *Rodericks* last words ; the King used all means possible , but without any success ; he was told what feats *Matteo* had done, and dispatch'd a Post to him immediately,



diately, to desire his Company at *Paris*; but *Matteo* pretending I know not what indispositions, that rendred him incapable of serving his Majesty, the King was forc'd to write to the Magistrates, who sent away *Matteo* immediately.

Being arriv'd at *Paris*, he was in great affliction, because he knew not which way for his life to perform what was expected from him. At last he goes to the King, and tells him, that true it was indeed, he had formerly wrought some cures in that kind, but that it was not in reason to be expected he could dispossess all people he met with, seeing there were some Devils so refractory and cross-grain'd, neither threats nor enchantments, nor devotion it self would do no good on: That he said not this out of any repugnancy or unwillingness to do as he was desired, but that in case his endeavours were ineffectual, he might have his Majesties pardon. The King was stark mad at the story, and told him in plain terms, if he did not rout the Devil out of his Daughter, as he had done out of others, he would hang him forthwith; for he saw no reason why Miracles were not as feasible at *Paris*, as at *Florence* and

and Naples: These words toucht *Matteo* to the quick; he thought there was no pleasure to be taken in being hang'd in that manner, and that what the King had said, was without any equivocation: However he recollected himself a little, or at least pretended so, and calling for the Princess that was possess'd, he makes his approaches, and whispering her in the ear, told *Roderick* he was his very humble servant, and put him in minde of the good office he had done him, when he delivered him out of the talons of the Law; adding withall, that if he left him in the lurch, in the extremity of danger he was then in, the whole World would cry out on his ingratitude; *Roderick* heard him with no more patience than needs must, he swaggers, swears, storms, and layes about like a Devil in good earnest, gives him a thousand and a thousand ill words, but they could distinguish only these few at the last: How now, you Rascally Traitor, have you the impudence to come near me again? have you forgot it was I that made you your fortune? but I'll make all the World see, and you too, with a pox to you, that I can take away as well as give; besides which, you shall not fail

fail to be hang'd before you get away from *Paris*: Poor *Matteo* seeing no other remedy for his misfortunes, he fell a thinking of some other way, and having sent back the Lady to her Chamber, he made this speech to the King. Sir, I have told you before, that there are certain ill-natur'd capricious Spirits, one knows not which way to deal withall, and of this sort is that which possesses your Daughter; if what we shall administer might be sufficient, your Majesty should be happy in your desires, and mine also; but if things prove otherwise, and your Majesty be not satisfied with my endeavours, I shall submit, and your Majesty may deal with me as I deserve: In the mean time, I desire your Majesty would give order a Theatre be erected in the Church-yard of *Nostre Dame*, big enough to receive all the Nobility and Clergy in the Town: Let this Theatre, if your Majesty think good, be hung with Cloath of Gold, and other rich Stuffs, and an Altar set up in the middle on Sunday next; I would desire your Majesty to be there, with all the Princes and Nobility in *Paris*, and after a grand Mass is sung, let the Princess be brought also. Besides this, it is necessary

cessary there should be twenty persons at least, with Trumpets, Horns, Drums, Hoboys and Symbals, ready in some by-place, when I throw up my Cap into the air, to advance towards the Theatre with all the noise they can make; which Musick, with some other ingredients that I have, will I hope send the Devil packing from the Princess: The King gave order all things should be done as *Matteo* requested; and Sunday being come, and the Theatre throng'd with a multitude of persons of quality, and the Church-yard of *Nostre Dame* full of people, the Princess was led in by two Bishops, and followed by several Lords of the Court; *Roderick* was in a terrible amaze, to behold so magnificent a preparation, and pondering with himself, was over-heard to pronounce these words: I would fain know what this rascally Peasant means to do; I have seen many places, I have more than once seen the whole pomp of Heaven, nor am I ignorant of what is most formidable in Hell, yet can I not tell what to make of this; but I'll handle him like a Rogue, as he is, and if I fail, *Pluto* requite me; *Matteo* came up close to him, and desired him very  
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civilly to depart; but *Roderick* cryed out, Oh the wonderous cunning that is in you! do you think by this whimsey to save your self from my power, and the indignation of the King? but think what you will, you scoundrel, I am resolv'd you shall hang for't, or else let me pass for the most miserable poor-spirited Devil in the World; *Matteo* persisted in his request, but *Belphegor* gave him worse Language than before; but all that frightened not *Matteo*, for without losing more time, he threw his hat up into the air, and at an instant the Trumpets, Horns, and all the rest of the Musick struck up, and advanc'd towards the Theatre; *Roderick* was startled at the noise, and made it manifest that there are some Devils as fearfull as men, and not able to imagine the reason, he called out to *Matteo*, and ask'd what was the matter? *Matteo* being a cunning Rogue every inch of him, as if he had been terribly frightened, informs him thus: Alas! poor *Roderick*, says he, 'tis your Wife *Honest*a is come to seek you at *Paris*; he said no more, but it is not to be imagined what disorder these four or five words put the Devil into; they took away his wit and judgement, so as  
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without any consideration, whether the news was possible or not, without speaking one word, away he stole from the Princess; choosing rather to go back into Hell, and give up his accounts there, than to return again into the thralldom of Matrimony, that had already cost him so many sorrows and dangers. As soon as he arrived, he demanded audience, and in the presence of *Pluto, Æcus, Minos,* and *Radamanthus*, all of them Counsellors of State, he declared that the Souls of Men were in the right on't, and that 'twas their Wives that sent them to Hell: *Matteo* that had been too crafty for the Devil, returns to *Florence* in great triumph; the Chronicle mentions not any great matter the King gave him, but it says, that having gain'd sufficiently by the two former, he esteemed himself very happy that he had escaped hanging at *Paris*.

F I N I S.